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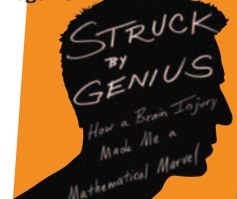
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SANDY HUFFAKER/The Washington Post

Rosa Peralta, mother of Marine Sgt. Rafael Peralta, shares mementoes of her son at her home in Chula Vista, Calif. Rafael died Nov. 15, 2004, in Fallujah, Iraq, after being shot and then allegedly sweeping a grenade under himself to protect his fellow Marines.

A DESERVING MARINE?

Witnesses say Sgt. Rafael Peralta swept a grenade under himself to save his comrades, but conflicting evidence has stymied requests to award him the Medal of Honor

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes



WASHINGTON — The Marine Corps thought Sgt. Rafael Peralta deserved the Medal of Honor for smothering a grenade to save his fellow Marines in Iraq in 2004. Three secretaries of defense rejected the service's recommendation, and Peralta instead was awarded the Navy Cross. Peralta's supporters believe he was denied the recognition he deserves because of a dysfunctional system that inconsistently awards medals for valor to troops who fought in the post-9/11 wars.

Peralta was an American by choice. He was born in Mexico City in 1979, but moved to the U.S. to escape gang violence and to attend school in San Diego. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2000 on the same day that he got his green card, and later became an American citizen while on active duty.

Peralta loved his adopted country. The U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and his Marine Corps graduation certificate — all neatly framed — adorned his bedroom wall at his family's home. "Be proud of me, bro ... and be proud of being an American," Peralta wrote in a letter to his younger brother Ricardo after he joined the service.

SEE DESERVING ON PAGE 4

Islamic militants post images of mass killing in Iraq

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
AND SAMEER N. YACOB
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — As the Iraqi government bolstered Baghdad's defenses Sunday, the Islamic militant group that captured two major cities last week posted graphic photos that appeared to show its fighters massacring dozens of captured Iraqi soldiers.

The pictures on a militant website appear to show masked fighters of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant loading the captives onto trucks before forcing them to lie face-down in a shallow ditch with their arms tied behind their backs.

The final images show the bodies of the captives soaked in blood after being shot.

The grisly images could fur-

ther sharpen sectarian tensions as hundreds of Shites heed a call from their spiritual leader to take up arms against the Sunni militants who have swept across the north. The ISIL has vowed to take the battle to Baghdad and cities further south housing revered Shiite shrines.

Meanwhile, a car bomb exploded in central Baghdad, killing 10 and wounding 21, ac-

cording to police and hospital officials. Baghdad has seen an escalation in suicide and car bombings in recent months, mostly targeting Shiite neighborhoods or security forces.

While the city of 7 million is not in any immediate danger of falling into the hands of the militants, Sunday's bombing could raise tensions.

SEE KILLING ON PAGE 6

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There's no end to the creativity to getting the drug to market when there's demand."

— Eric L. Olson, a Latin America researcher at the Woodrow Wilson International Center in Washington, who said he witnessed agents seizing liquid methamphetamine in soda bottles in 2012 in Laredo, Texas

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MIDEAST

Afghan election attacks underreported

By HEATH DRUZIN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL — Afghanistan's election was much more violent and deadly than authorities initially admitted, with more than three times the number of attacks originally reported, according to Defense Ministry figures released on Sunday.

On Saturday, when millions of Afghans went to the polls to vote in the final round of the country's presidential election, the Interior Ministry reported just 150 attacks, presenting that as a significant drop from the more than 600 insurgent attacks recorded during the first round of elections on April 5.

On Sunday, Defense Ministry spokesman Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi said there actually had been 506 attacks across the country.

While the number of attacks were down from the first round of voting, they were deadlier.

Thirty-three civilians were killed and 63 were wounded across the country, four times the number of civilian deaths reported in the April election, Azimi said. Eleven people, including several election workers and a child, were killed in a single blast in Samangan province, and in Herat province, 11 voters had their fingers, stained with ink to prevent repeat voting, chopped off by insurgents as punishment for voting.

Security officials now say 29 soldiers and police were killed in clashes on Saturday, along with 176 insurgents.

In Kabul, the morning started with several blasts as rockets hit the city, and a number of voters interviewed said people had been scared away by the threat of violence.

"In the morning we heard two blasts, and I think that stopped some people from voting," said Abdul Khahir, a doctor in Kabul, who waited until afternoon to vote to see if there would be further attacks.

The election, which would mark the first democratic transfer of power in Afghanistan's history, is key not only to the country's stability, but also to the legacy of the controversial, nearly 13-year-old international military and reconstruction effort. Former foreign minister Abdullah Abdullah is



PHOTOS BY HEATH DRUZIN/Stars and Stripes

A voter in Kabul looks at his ink-stained finger Saturday during Afghanistan's presidential election.



An Afghan woman walks from a voting booth in Kabul on Saturday.

neighboring Pakistan.

The Afghan government and, in many cases, local media have sought to play down problems with the election to bolster faith in the process, often painting a distorted picture of events.

Shortly after polls closed Saturday, the head of Afghanistan's main election body, Ahmad Yousaf Nuristani, surprised many by saying more than 7 million Afghans had voted, which would mean turnout was higher than the first round. Nuristani, who like many experts had predicted lower turnout in the second round, offered no data to back up his assertion, and many people expressed skepticism.

"It was a really unprofessional announcement from the (Independent Election Commission)," said Jandad Spinghar, head of the independent election monitor, Election Watch Organization of Afghanistan.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.
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running against former finance minister Ashraf Ghani to replace President Hamid Karzai, who has ruled the country since shortly after the U.S. military knocked out the ruling Taliban in 2001.

Azimi also painted a grim picture of the challenges faced by the Afghan security forces in the coming years, when they will

have much less military support from the NATO-led coalition, which is withdrawing its combat forces at the end of this year.

"As long as the enemy have their support centers outside of Afghanistan for training, planning and weapons, we will face the same challenges," he said, referring to Taliban safe havens in

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STARS AND STRIPES.

PACIFIC

S. Korea presses US military on troops' conduct

BY ASHLEY ROWLAND
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea is urging the U.S. military to better control its servicemembers after several recent allegations of misbehavior — including an attempted taxi theft and the alleged harassment of female employees at a water park — that have received national attention here.

South Korean officials "strongly" requested that U.S. Forces Korea cooperate with efforts by Korean authorities to prevent crime and quickly address any crimes that occur, according to a statement by the Foreign Ministry issued after a meeting Wednesday of the Joint SOFA Committee. The committee handles issues related to U.S. Forces Korea Status of Forces agreement governing troops and installations.

The ministry said it told the U.S. representatives that while the number of cases involving U.S. military is declining, public opinion against USFK could worsen because of recent alleged misbehavior.

In response, the U.S. promised to work to prevent similar incidents, to strengthen its disciplinary measures and to better educate servicemembers about South Korean laws and culture, the ministry statement said.

USFK issued a statement to Stars and Stripes saying any type of misconduct by USFK service-

members "is unacceptable." It said it takes all cases seriously and cooperates with South Korean authorities in accordance with the SOFA.

"Even the very small percentage of the U.S. military who do not obey host nation laws and customs are too much," the USFK statement said.

"We will continue our efforts to prevent and mitigate potential incidents," the statement said. "We will continue our efforts to prevent and mitigate potential incidents."

"I fully support the Korean prosecution of soldiers found to have violated Korean law, and I will not tolerate immature and thoughtless behavior."

Maj. Gen.
Thomas Vandal
21D commander

Three incidents last month focused attention on the issue.

On May 4, Spec. Carl A. Lissone died in a brain hemorrhage after a street fight outside a Seoul nightclub. The incident is still under investigation, but South Korean police say other soldiers were involved.

On May 31, a sergeant with the 2nd Infantry Division's 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade allegedly stole a taxi in Seoul, according to South Korean police, drove the car about 3 miles, crashed into a



Courtesy of Everland theme park

Two 2nd Infantry Division soldiers are accused of inappropriately touching female employees at Everland theme park's Caribbean Bay attraction on May 31.

stopped car and then fought with a police officer before he was subdued. The sergeant had a blood alcohol level of 0.158 percent at the time of his arrest and said he had little memory of the incident.

On the same day, two 21D soldiers were accused of inappropriately touching two female employees at the Everland theme park's Caribbean Bay water park.

South Korean police said the two soldiers, along with a third 21D soldier, were causing a disturbance. The soldiers, identified as a private, a private first class and a specialist with the 210th Field Artillery Brigade, allegedly punched a male employee in the face and kicked him, then refused to cooperate with police, punching one officer and spitting in his face.

Additional details of that case were disclosed last week.

While one of the soldiers said a female employee misinterpreted

his comments and gestures as being obscene, South Korean police said closed-circuit footage proves many of the allegations against the men and that they could face charges, including sexual harassment, assault and obstructing police carrying out their duties.

The soldiers told South Korean police during questioning that they were drunk and remember little of what happened at the park, authorities said. They told police that besides drinking beer at Caribbean Bay, they and a fourth soldier drank a mixture of soju — a potent and popular Korean liquor — and beer while riding a bus to the park, according to the Yongin Dongbu Police chief of criminal affairs.

The bus was transporting the soldiers as part of a military-affiliated trip to boost the morale of single soldiers, the police official said. 21D would not com-

ment on the drinking allegations because the incident is still under investigation.

21D commander Maj. Gen. Thomas Vandal said in a statement last week that 21D is cooperating fully with South Korean police to make sure those "found at fault face swift and firm consequences."

"I fully support the Korean prosecution of soldiers found to have violated Korean law, and I will not tolerate immature and thoughtless behavior," he said. In reference to the alleged taxi theft and misbehavior at Everland, he said "I will not allow two careless acts of indiscipline to tarnish 21D readiness and our strong relationship with our Korean neighbors."

The 21D press release said the U.S. troops are subject to both South Korean law and the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

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S. Korea set to finish naval base to meet Pyongyang threat

BY ASHLEY ROWLAND
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea will complete construction of a new naval base later this year on a northwest island that was the site of a major North Korean attack four years ago, defense officials said Friday.

"The area is where North Korean provocations take place most often in the Korean peninsula," a South Korean Navy spokesman said.

The Baengnyeong Island naval base will, if needed, house advanced patrol boats, including the 570-ton guarded-missile "patrol killer" and the 170-ton patrol killer medium vessel, a South Korean Navy official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported that the \$42

million base would include facilities for about 100 troops. The Navy official said the base will be able to hold a company-sized detachment of servicemembers, but would not give precise numbers on how many troops would be stationed there.

The island is just 10 miles from North Korea along the disputed naval border. Pyongyang torpedoed the Cheonan warship just off the island in March 2010, ripping the ship in half and killing 46 sailors.

The North has denied its involvement in the sinking, though a multinational investigation concluded that it was responsible.

A spokesman for the Ministry of National Defense said the base is meant to beef up defenses because of the overall threat posed by the North.

In testimony in March before the U.S. Senate Armed Services

Committee, U.S. Forces Korea commander Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti said the Cheonan disaster illustrated how real the North Korean threat is.

"That day is a constant reminder that standing at freedom's frontier with our Korean ally, we cannot allow ourselves to become complacent against an unpredictable totalitarian regime," he said.

The northwest islands have been the site of other provocations, including the North's shelling of Yeonpyeong Island in 2010, in which four people were killed.

In March, a rudimentary drone was found on Baengnyeong Island, one of three that were determined to be of North Korean origin, which Seoul later concluded were being used for spying.

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Stars and Stripes

Korean youngsters examine the wreckage of the Cheonan, the South Korean ship hit by a North Korean torpedo, during their visit to a South Korean naval base in 2011. South Korea is building a new naval base near the site of the bombing, 10 miles from North Korea.

MILITARY

Deserving: Medical examiner reports conflict with the eyewitness accounts

FROM FRONT PAGE

Peralta deployed to Iraq with 1st Platoon, Company A, First Battalion, Third Marines, Regimental Combat Team 7, First Marine Division, to participate in Operation Iraqi Freedom. His life came to an end in the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah.

The day before he was killed, Peralta volunteered to join an undermanned squad of Marines conducting house-clearing operations and act as a platoon guide, according to Marine accounts. On the morning of Nov. 15, 2004, the squad approached a house in Fallujah where they suspected insurgents might be hiding. The point man kicked in the door, and Peralta and other team members entered the home.

Insurgents opened fire, and Marines who were standing behind Peralta shot back. Peralta fell wounded. It was later determined that Peralta was likely hit by friendly fire. As Peralta lay on the ground, one of the insurgents tossed a grenade at the Marines.

What happened next is the heart of the dispute over whether the fallen Marine deserves the Medal of Honor.

Experts disagree

The enemy threw a grenade "that landed next to Sgt. Peralta, who was lying on the deck. He reached over and pulled the grenade into himself," a Marine who was in the room with Peralta said in an after-action statement the day Peralta was killed. The Marine's name was redacted in official documents obtained by Stars and Stripes.

'The head gunshot wound would have been immediately incapacitating and nearly instantly fatal. He could not have executed any meaningful motions.'

Medical examiner preliminary report

After reviewing the evidence and sworn witness testimony, Lt. Gen. Richard Natonski, the commander of the 1st Marine Division, recommended Peralta be given the Medal of Honor.

"I believe Sergeant Peralta made a conscious, heroic decision to cover the grenade

and minimize the effects he knew it would have on the rest of his Marine team," Natonski wrote in January 2005. "As he lay injured, rather than using his strength in an attempt to save himself, he knowingly and selflessly opted to give his life for his fellow Marines. ... Sergeant Peralta's actions clearly rise above and beyond the call of duty and deserve to be recognized by award of our Nation's highest combat award, the Congressional Medal of Honor."

But in a preliminary report, the medical examiner who performed the autopsy concluded that Peralta would not have been able to sweep the grenade toward himself.

"The head gunshot wound would have been immediately incapacitating and nearly instantly fatal," the examiner wrote in an April 2005 email. "He could not have executed any meaningful motions."

The examiner's name was redacted in documents obtained by Stars and Stripes.

The medical examiner said the shrapnel pattern on Peralta's body suggested that the grenade exploded "a few feet" away from him.

Two neurosurgeons and one neurologist who later examined the autopsy report but did not examine Peralta's body disagreed with the medical examiner, arguing that it was possible that Peralta did what his fellow Marines claimed. Supporters of Peralta's nomination argued that the grenade fuse found lodged in Peralta's body arm demonstrated that the grenade did explode up against him.

Natonski stood by his recommendation, which made it way to then-Secretary of Defense Robert Gates for his approval.

Gates: No choice

In his recently published memoir, Gates revealed that he initially approved the Medal of Honor recommendation in 2008, despite some dissenting views from the military community.

"In light of the unanimous support of the entire uniformed leadership involved, I approved the recommendation," he wrote. "I was satisfied that Sergeant Peralta met all the criteria and deserved the Medal of Honor."

However, Gates said he was pressured to revisit his decision.

"After I signed the recommendation to the president, I was informed that a complaint had been made to the department's inspector general that Peralta could not have consciously taken the action credited ... and therefore did not meet the criteria for the award," Gates wrote. "The inspector general intended to carry out an investigation unless I took some action to deal with the

complaint.

"... I decided that the only way to clear the air quietly was to ask a special panel to look into the allegation."

The panel included forensic pathologists, a neurosurgeon, a retired general officer who had commanded in Iraq, and a Medal of Honor recipient. They pored over the evidence, including medical reports, and talked to subject matter experts, according to Gates.

"The panel concluded unanimously that, with his wounds, Peralta could not have consciously pulled the grenade under him," Gates wrote. "I had no choice but to withdraw my approval."

The Navy Cross award citation, approved by the Secretary of the Navy, tells a very different version of events than Gates' panel.

"The grenade came to rest near Sergeant Peralta's head," the citation reads. "Without hesitation and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Sergeant Peralta reached out and pulled the grenade to his body, absorbing the brunt of the blast and shielding fellow Marines only feet away."

Doug Sterner, the chief archivist for the Military Times Hall of Valor website and a leading expert on military awards, is highly critical of the unusual way the Peralta case review unfolded.

"We've never put people under a microscope like this before," Sterner told Stars and Stripes. "They've got the eyewitness statements of the Marines. It makes absolutely no sense to me."

"If I was a Marine, I would be pissed to the core that an Army medical officer decided what awards a Marine gets. ... I think it's unprecedented. I've never heard of that happening before."

Gates' successors, Leon Panetta and Chuck Hagel, reviewed the case after new information came to light. In a letter to Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., Panetta said he decided not to overturn Gates' decision because the evidence didn't meet the "beyond-a-reasonable-doubt" standard for the Medal of Honor. In a press release explaining his decision not to reopen the nomination, Hagel said there was "considerable medical and professional doubt" about whether Peralta could have done what the Marines said he did.

The Defense Department's arguments don't satisfy Peralta's supporters.

"When I saw the grenade, I thought I was dead. [But] Peralta swept it up underneath his body," former Marine Col. Robert Reynolds told Stars and Stripes.

The medical people who said Peralta couldn't have consciously moved the grenade "are 110 percent mistaken, because I wouldn't be here today if he didn't do it ...," Reynolds said. "I could reach out and touch Peralta; that's how close I was to him. If that grenade wasn't underneath his body I would have been hammered. I mean, I would have been dead because I was well within that killing radius. [But] I didn't have one ounce of shrapnel from the grenade in my body."

"He clearly deserves [the Medal of Honor], I mean, there's Marines still alive today that he saved."

Peralta's family has publicly expressed disappointment with the Pentagon's deci-

sion. "It's really emotional for the family because his nomination for the Medal of Honor has now been turned down more than once," Ricardo Peralta said last year before Hagel made his decision, according to a Marine Corps news release. "But we know that there's not a single decoration or medal that they can give him that will make us more proud. We're proud to the fullest."

Hunter has been pushing hard to get Peralta the Medal of Honor for nearly a decade. The congressman is a former Marine officer who also fought in the battle of Fallujah. Peralta's family live in his district.

"It's a sad state of affairs for a broken awards system," Hunter told Stars and Stripes. "The Peralta case is representative of the lack of recognition by DOD of our combat men and women. ... There's not a single living Medal of Honor [recipient] from Iraq. That's complete lack of recognition by DOD, and by the [Bush and Obama] administrations, and by the offices of the secretaries of defense who were in control at those points of time, of our men and women who have served."

'If I was a Marine, I would be pissed to the core that an Army medical officer decided what awards a Marine gets. ... I think it's unprecedented. I've never heard of that happening before.'

Doug Sterner
chief archivist for
the Military Times Hall
of Valor website

tem is," Sterner said.

Sterner cited Army Sgt. 1st Class Alwyn Cashe as another example of a service member not getting the medal he deserved in the post-9/11 wars.

SEE DESERVED ON PAGE 5

HEROES 2014

Stars and Stripes tells the stories of courage and camaraderie, celebrating the lives and deaths of those who gave nothing less than everything for others.

Online exclusively at:
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Courtesy of the Peralta Family

Marine Sgt. Rafael Peralta, right, seen with a friend in this undated photo, died Nov. 15, 2004, in Fallujah, Iraq.

MILITARY

Deserving: Gates says military too reluctant when it comes to Medal of Honor

FROM PAGE 4

When Cashe's Bradley Fighting Vehicle was engulfed in flames after striking an IED outside Daliya, Iraq, in 2005, the soldier — despite being drenched in fuel — repeatedly went back inside the vehicle and pulled every one of his six comrades from the inferno. His uniform burned off his body and his flesh was charred; Cashe later succumbed to his wounds. He received the Silver Star, despite having allowed himself to burn to death to save his fellow soldiers. Others troops have received higher awards for doing what many would consider less heroic deeds.

Sternier believes the awards system has become so inconsistent that it's time for a complete review of all the medals awarded at the Silver Star level and above for actions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Fabricated story?

Not all Marines believe that Peralta deserves the Medal of Honor.

Shortly after Hagel rendered his decision, two Marines who said they were in the house in Fallujah when the grenade was thrown told The Washington Post that accounts of Peralta reaching for the grenade were fabricated at the attack. One of them, Reggie Brown, ran out of the house when the grenade was tossed and

“Too few [Medals of Honor] have been awarded in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, in which there have been so many heroic, selfless deeds.”

Robert Gates
former secretary of defense

didn't see it detonate. Davi Allen, who was wounded in the backside by shrapnel from the grenade blast — which some cite as evidence that Allen was facing away from Peralta when the explosion occurred — couldn't have seen what Peralta was doing — said Peralta didn't reach for the grenade and it detonated near Peralta but not under him.

Brown and Allen suggested that Marines at the scene decided to make up the story of Peralta's heroism as a way of honoring him or out of guilt because Peralta was killed by friendly fire. Tony Gonzales, who was outside the house during the battle with insurgents, has also claimed that some of the Marines made up the story.

Reynolds described their alternative version as “B.S.” He said there wasn't enough time for everyone to invent a story because

he and other Marines were quickly medically evacuated out of the area after getting wounded by the insurgents. Reynolds said he didn't discuss the incident with anyone until he gave an official statement after he was in recovery from gunshot wounds he sustained during the firefight.

Nicholas Jones, the squad leader, told the Post that the conspiracy claims are “ridiculous.”

Aside from Allen, none of the Marines who saw Peralta on the floor and said he reached for the grenade have changed the substance of their stories or accused anyone of falsifying the original narrative.

Process under review

Hunter is holding out hope that one day Peralta will get the recognition that many believe he deserves.

“It's a dead horse,” he said. “In 25 years when you have a president look back like President Obama just did towards Vietnam and the men and women that did not get awarded medals and did not get recognition when they should have, that's probably what we are looking at.”

“It might be 25 years. Who knows? But I think if somebody [who makes these decisions] sees this objectively [when the current controversy has subsided], I think they're going to see this in the same way that I do and most of the people that know about the case do, which is that [Peralta] should receive the Medal of Honor.”

Peralta's case bears similarities to that of medically retired Cpl. William “Kyle” Carpenter, who is believed to have jumped on an enemy grenade to save a fellow Marine in Afghanistan. Carpenter will be awarded the Medal of Honor on June 19 for his actions, the White House has announced.

There were no eyewitnesses to verify that Carpenter pounced on the grenade, because Carpenter and the Marine he saved were so injured by the blast that they are unable to recall exactly what happened.

“I'm not taking anything away from [Carpenter] at all,” Reynolds said. “He did what he did honorably. [But] there was no eyewitness accounts to it. ... and yet he's getting that Medal of Honor. Sgt. Peralta takes a grenade [and] there are several eyewitness accounts ... There's all this evidence proving that he did it, and he's being denied.”

In March, Hagel ordered a review of the entire awards system with the purpose of determining how it can be improved. A senior defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity so he could more freely discuss the Peralta case, told Stars and Stripes that the controversy surrounding Peralta didn't influence Hagel's decision to launch the review. But he



PHOTOS BY SANDY HUFFAKER/The Washington Post

Above: Two Purple Hearts and other items sit in a display case for Rafael Peralta at his family's home in Chula Vista, Calif. Below: Rosa Peralta holds the last letter written by her son before he died in 2004.

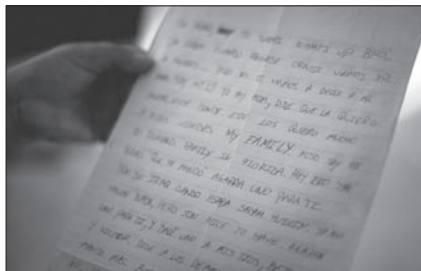
said the larger issue of whether the Pentagon is too stingy when it comes to awarding the Medal of Honor will be examined.

“[Hagel] believes we should be asking ourselves that question,” according to the official, who is familiar with the secretary's thinking on this issue.

Despite his ruling in the Peralta case, Gates thinks that the military is too reluctant when it comes to the Medal of Honor.

“Too few [Medals of Honor] have been awarded in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, in which there have been so many heroic, selfless deeds,” Gates wrote in his memoir. “I once asked [former Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter] Chiarelli why so few had been recommended. He said because medals had been passed out so freely in Vietnam, succeeding officers were determined to raise the bar. They had raised it too high, he thought.”

The new review will examine, among other things, whether there is enough consistency in the awards process, Pentagon Press Secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby



told reporters when the initiative was announced. “[Hagel] wants to examine the degree to which the services submit and evaluate and decide on major combat awards,” Kirby said. “I think he would like to get a better sense of what discrepancies there may be between the services and do those discrepancies need to be closed. The answer may be no, but I think he wants to ask those

questions,” Kirby said.

Kirby said Hagel realizes that the awards system will always be imperfect, regardless of what changes are made.

“It's not a science, and I don't think he's trying to make it a science. But he does think it's time, after 13 years of war, to take a fresh look at how we think about this,” Kirby said.

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IRAQ



AP via militant website

This image posted on a militant website Saturday appears to show militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant take aim at captured Iraqi soldiers wearing plain clothes after taking over a base in Tikrit, Iraq.

Killing: Iraq struggles to bolster force as US military sends support to Persian Gulf

FROM FRONT PAGE

Food prices in the city have risen, twofold in some cases, because of disruption to transport on the main road heading north from the capital.

The government bolstered defenses around Baghdad on Sunday, a day after hundreds of Shiite men paraded through the streets with arms in response to a call by Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani for Iraqis to defend their country. The ISIL has vowed to attack Baghdad but its advance to the south seems to have stalled in recent days. Thousands of Shiites have also volunteered to join the fight against the ISIL, also in response to al-Sistani's call.

Armed police, including SWAT teams, were seen over the weekend manning checkpoints in Baghdad, searching vehicles and checking drivers' documents. Security was particularly tightened on the northern and western approaches of the city, the likely targets of any advance by ISIL fighters on the capital. The city looked gloomy on Sunday, with thin traffic and few shoppers in commercial areas.

At one popular park along the Tigris river, only a fraction of the thousands who usually head there were present on Sunday evening. In the commercial Karada district in central Baghdad, many of the sidewalk hawkers who sell anything from shoes to toys and clothes were absent.

The crisis in Iraq has prompted the United States to order an aircraft carrier into the Persian Gulf. It also laid out specific ways for Iraq to show it is forging the national unity necessary to gain assistance in its fight against the ISIL and other militants.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel on Saturday ordered the USS George H.W. Bush from the northern Arabian Sea as President Barack Obama considered possible military options for Iraq, Hagel's press secretary, Rear



NABI AL-JURANI/AP

Shiite tribal fighters raise their weapons and chant slogans against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in Basra, Iraq's second-largest city, 340 miles southeast of Baghdad, on Sunday.

Adm. John Kirby, said the move will give Obama additional flexibility if military action were required to protect American citizens and interests in Iraq.

Accompanying the carrier will be the guided-missile cruiser USS Philippine Sea and the guided-missile destroyer USS Truxtun. The ships, which carry Tomahawk missiles that could reach Iraq, were expected to complete their move into the Persian Gulf by the end of the day. The USS Bush's fighter jets also could easily reach Iraq.

In neighboring Iran, the acting commander of the Islamic Republic's army ground forces, Gen. Kiamars Heidari, said Iran has increased its defenses along its western border with Iraq, though there was no immediate threat to the frontier.

In Baghdad, Iraqi government officials said ISIL fighters were trying to capture the city of Tal Afar in northern Iraq on Sunday and raining down rockets seized

last week from military arms depots. The officials said the local garrison suffered heavy casualties and the town's main hospital was unable to cope with the number of wounded, without providing exact numbers.

Iraq's top military spokesman, Lt. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi, confirmed that fighting was raging at Tal Afar, but indicated that the militants were suffering heavy casualties. On all fronts north of the capital, he said, a total of 297 militants have been killed in the past 24 hours.

There was no way to independently confirm his claims.

ISIL and allied Sunni militants captured a vast swath of northern Iraq last week, including second city Mosul and Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, as Iraqi troops, many of them armed and trained by the U.S., fled in disarray, surrendering vehicles, weapons and ammunition to the powerful extremist group, which also fights in Syria.

Group's gains in Iraq fufill violent vision of founder

By JOBY WARRICK
The Washington Post

On the eve of the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003, a 36-year-old Jordanian who called himself "the Stranger" slipped into the suburbs of Baghdad armed with a few weapons, bags of cash and an audacious plan for starting a war he hoped would unite Sunni Muslims across the Middle East.

The tattooed ex-convict and high school dropout had few followers and scant ties to the local population. Yet, the Stranger — soon to be known widely as Abu Musab al-Zarqawi — quickly rallied thousands of Iraqis and foreign fighters to his cause. He launched spectacular suicide bombings and gruesome executions targeting Americans, Shiites and others he saw as obstacles to his vision for a Sunni caliphate stretching from Syria to the Persian Gulf.

Al-Zarqawi was killed in a U.S. airstrike in 2006, but the organization he founded is again on the march. In just a week, his group — formerly known as al-Qaida in Iraq and now called the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant, or ISIL — has seized cities and towns across western and northern Iraq at a pace that might have astonished al-Zarqawi himself. Already in control of large swaths of eastern Syria, the group's black-clad warriors appear to have taken a leap toward realizing al-Zarqawi's dream of an extremist Sunni enclave across the region.

It's unclear whether the gains of the ISIL will last, or whether the Sunni tribesmen who apparently aided the jihadists will submit to living under the group's harsh brand of Islamic law. Either way, U.S. and Middle East officials say the group's achievements are both remarkable and alarming, displaying the same mix of audacity, cunning and political skill that made al-Zarqawi such a fearsome opponent a decade ago.

Counterterrorism officials who tried to defeat the group during the al-Zarqawi era expressed begrudging respect for the ability of the ISIL to recover from virtual extinction in the years after his death. The current leader, a former Iraqi teacher known as Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, managed to find new purpose in the Syrian conflict and renewed strength in the lawless regions of eastern Syria and western Iraq, where his fighters could train and plan without interference from U.S. and Western military forces.

"They get sick, but they never die," said a senior Middle Eastern intelligence official who has closely tracked the fast-moving developments in Iraq.

The official, who insisted that his name and nationality not be re-

vealed in discussing his country's intelligence assessments, said the astonishing recent gains of the ISIS were mostly due to skillfully forged alliances with Sunni tribal leaders, as the group exploited widespread resentment toward the Iraqi government in Baghdad.

"They all share the same hatred for the ruling regime," said the official, citing examples of Iraqi Sunni collusion in the sweep of the ISIL through Mosul, Tikrit and other Iraqi cities. "It would not be possible for a group like [the ISIL] to control so much territory on its own. They are getting a lot of help from the sons of the tribes."

So far, at least, the ISIL has managed to avoid alienating its natural Sunni allies the way al-Zarqawi famously did. The Jordanian's indiscriminate and unflinchingly brutal attacks on Iraqi civilians helped give rise to the Sunni backlash known as the Anbar Awakening, in which tribal sheiks withdrew their support from al-Zarqawi and actively helped U.S. forces find and destroy his operatives.

Even veterans of the Awakening seem more willing to give the ISIL a chance. Zaydan Aljabri, an Iraqi tribal sheik from Anbar province, said he thinks the ISIL has learned from the mistakes of the al-Zarqawi era and is now truly committed to defending Sunnis against a Baghdad government he sees as corrupt and repressive.

"If al-Baghdadi asked for my allegiance, I would give it to him, because what he is doing is what I want," Aljabri said. "Right now my priority is liberating the Sunnis, and that's why he has been fighting for the last six years."

Aljabri said Anbar's Sunnis believe they can manage the ISIL and prevent it from imposing the kind of harsh Islamic law that tarnished the group's image in parts of Syria it controls. "We are an Islamic nation, but we are a developed country — to be part of the world," he said. "Al-Baghdadi will not dare try to impose [sharia] law in Iraq because he knows the tribes will not tolerate it."

Al-Baghdadi has repeatedly insisted that his group has learned from its past errors, and his lieutenants in Syria have tried to portray themselves as committed to improving social welfare. The group's propaganda wing frequently posts videos of ISIL soldiers passing out food and blankets or clearing trash from Syrian streets.



al-Zarqawi

IRAQ

For President Obama, Iraq looms large again

By SCOTT WILSON
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama inherited two wars on taking office, one he called “dumb” to his political benefit and the other he described more urgently as “the war we need to win.”

ANALYSIS It is the dumb one today that poses the most immediate challenge to his national security priorities and to his foreign policy legacy.

Iraq is splintering, and with it both the original neoconservative belief that a sectarian dictatorship could be made quickly into a stable democracy and Obama's hands-off approach to the wider region.

The Islamist insurgents now seizing cities across Iraq's battered north grew up in Syria, whose civil war Obama has steadfastly avoided despite the grave threat to the region's delicate stability.

Those threats of a wider regional war have been given shape. In recent days, armed Islamists spanning the Syrian border have seized Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, and a string of Sunni Muslim towns, long estranged from



This image appears to show militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant leading away captured Iraqi soldiers in plain clothes after taking over a base in Tikrit, Iraq.

the Shiite-led central government, that run south to the edge of Baghdad. Turkey and Iran may intervene to protect their political and security interests, and Iraq's Kurds have moved into the long-contested city of Kirkuk, which was abandoned by the Iraqi army.

Now a president elected to end the United States' wars faces

demands, in Washington and in Baghdad, to rejoin the one he long condemned and had thought was over.

The expected line of his presidential legacy — Obama as the commander in chief who brought to a close the nation's post-Sept. 11, 2001, conflicts — is threatened now to include an asterisk.

“My team is working around the clock to identify how we can provide the most effective assistance to them,” Obama said Thursday in an Oval Office appearance with Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott.

“I don't rule out anything, because we do have a stake in making sure that these jihadists are

not getting a permanent foothold in either Iraq or Syria, for that matter.”

It is how Obama ended the Iraq war 2½ years ago — and the decisions he has made since then to avoid new conflicts — that has been revived with the most sustained period of organized violence in Iraq since the U.S. departure.

Lured by cheap gas, food, Iraqis return just days after Mosul fell

By DIAA HADID
The Associated Press

KALAK, Iraq — Days after Iraq's second-largest city fell to al-Qaida-inspired fighters, some Iraqis are already returning to Mosul, lured back by insurgents offering cheap gas and food, restoring power and water and removing traffic barricades.

Many people appear excited to return, taking sectarian pride in the extremist Sunni group, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. Some see them as liberators.

“I hope God supports them and makes them victorious over the oppression of (Nouri) al-Maliki,” said Abu Thaeir, 80.

He spoke at the Khazer checkpoint on the northern frontier of the largely autonomous Kurdish region of Iraq, 65 miles from Mosul. Five veiled women and six children were crammed into the back seat of his car.

They were among tens of thousands of people who flocked to homes as Islamic State fighters and other Sunni militants seized much of northern Iraq, includ-

ing Mosul and Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit.

Many Sunni Arab men and women said they left not because they feared the insurgents but because of the risk of retaliatory airstrikes by Iraqi government forces.

Their return underscores the profound sectarianism cleaving Iraq and the depth of anger that many Sunnis harbor toward al-Maliki's government, which they accuse of discrimination and harassment and pushing Sunnis to the political margins.

“We see that they have made Mosul better,” said Abu Mohammed, 34, a taxi driver who ferries returnees back to the city. “The water is back. The electricity is back. The prices are lower.”

The anger many Iraqis felt toward al-Maliki's government only increased after soldiers abandoned Mosul, fleeing before civilians. It's likely that many Iraqi troops fled because they sensed insurgents would be welcomed by long-repentful Sunnis, and they did not want to risk their lives for a senseless battle.

“The army was only good at oppressing Sunnis, but it was nothing more,” Abu Thaeir said.

It wasn't clear how many Iraqis sought to return to Mosul. During a single hour on Friday afternoon, an Associated Press reporter saw an 18-seat bus crammed with men, women and children and their luggage. A taxi driver was making regular trips to the city. And about seven other families were crammed into four vehicles, heading home.

Many of those who fled said relatives who remained in Mosul began urging them to come back, saying the Sunni insurgents had restored power, water and were promising not to harm returning residents.

In a move that immediately improved their popularity, insurgents also emptied out prisons, said Abu Sulaf, 22. The young man said mostly Shiite forces had harassed and unfairly detained many Sunnis.

Islamic State fighters also removed concrete barricades that snarled traffic through the city and lengthened commutes, often

by hours, residents said.

Returning residents said relatives told them the insurgents slashed the prices of key staples. A liter of gasoline for vehicles or diesel for generators, a necessity because of frequent power cuts, dropped from 42 cents to 30 cents, taxi driver Abu Mohammed said.

A canister of cooking gas dropped from \$6.85 to \$3.40. The fighters forced traders to offer vegetables and key foods at half price, he said.

News of the discounts, but not the exact prices, were echoed by

other returning residents.

The efforts by fighters to win over hearts and minds may appear odd for a group whose tactics include beheading their rivals, chopping off the hands of thieves and imprisoning local activists.

But the fighters conducted similar goodwill campaigns after seizing areas of neighboring Syria. It was only later that the darkest side of their rule emerged.

So far, only Sunni Arabs appear to be returning, suggesting a fundamental change to the city's demography.

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NATION

House conservatives planning next steps

By DONNA CASSATA
AND ERICA WERNER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Conservatives emboldened by House Majority Leader Eric Cantor's astonishing loss to a tea party-backed upstart are pledging to capitalize on their newfound political strength.

That is setting up election-year struggles over Congress' most basic legislative responsibilities and erasing already slim hopes for ambitious bills on immigration and voting rights.

Cantor's presence in the leadership ranks had raised expectations of some congressional action

this year on a Republican alternative to President Barack Obama's health care law, a business-friendly reauthorization of the Export-Import bank, a bipartisan voting-rights measure and even some version of an immigration overhaul.

The Virginia Republican's primary defeat last Tuesday at the hands of immigration foe Dave Brat and his decision to step down as majority leader July 31 dashed any dimming prospects for far-reaching legislation. With control of Congress at stake in the November election, conservatives read the election results as a repudiation of any measure that might divide Republican ranks.

Establishment Republicans who have engaged in a struggle with ultraconservative tea party factions during the past five years dismissed the crowing over Cantor's loss, arguing that he was the conservative's conservative in the leadership. Several Republicans insisted the internal party fights will continue.

If Republicans end up controlling both the House and Senate after the November election, conservatives have high expectations for bold action and challenges to the lame-duck president in the year ahead of the 2016 White House race.

For now, with just 36 legislative days left in the House, lawmakers

plan to do the bare minimum.

"The agenda's pretty well set — we've got to get a budget done before the first of October, appropriations bills, maybe some other VA (veterans) legislation done, that's about all," said Republican Rep. Phil Roe of Tennessee.

With a Republican House that deeply distrusts Obama and a Democratic Senate, Congress has produced very little in a year and a half. Just 121 bills have become law. The previous two years produced a remarkably low 283 laws.

"I don't think the problem here is recalcitrant Republicans, I think it's actually recalcitrant Democrats and a president who's not very good at legislative deal-

making," said Republican Rep. Tom Cole, of Oklahoma.

In the chaotic aftermath of Cantor's loss, conservatives and more established Republicans scrambled for the sudden openings in the leadership ranks.

California Rep. Kevin McCarthy, now No. 3 in the House Republican leadership as whip, is all but assured of moving up in the ranks to replace Cantor though he faces a long-shot challenge from Idaho Rep. Raul Labrador, a tea party supporter who made a late entry on Friday.

House Speaker John Boehner is not being challenged for now.

The House leadership election is Thursday.

President longs to break out of White House bubble

By NEDRA PICKLER
The Associated Press

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. — It's perhaps appropriate that President Barack Obama is vacationing this weekend in California, where the state flag features a roaming grizzly.

The restless president, who has compared himself to a caged animal on recent wanderings by declaring the "bear is loose," took a long Father's Day weekend away with his wife and older daughter.

The visit to the desert resort area of Palm Springs is one of the ways Obama has been trying to escape during his sixth year cloistered in the White House.

"I think, frankly, we've all been through a cold and bitter winter and the bear has cabin fever," said Obama friend and senior adviser Valerie Jarrett. "His cabin is a little bit bigger and harder to escape than most."

Obama has fantasized about being "on a beach somewhere, drinking out of a coconut" or simply being able to walk out of the White House gate and stroll around unrecognized.

In California, Obama has worked out mornings at a gym near the Rancho Mirage home where the first family is staying with White House decorator Michael Smith and his partner, James Costos, the American ambassador to Spain.

The hilltop home has sweeping views, a private tennis court and a trapezoid swimming pool. It's near the Sunnyslands estate, where the president golfed despite temperatures above 100 degrees.

Obama interspersed his four-day weekend with official duties, including Democratic Party fundraising, a speech on climate change and calls to his national security adviser discussing military options to stop a violent insurgency in Iraq.

Obama seemed determined not to let the crisis overseas keep him from getting away, in a time-honored tradition of presidents going on working vacations even as some question the optics.

"Sometimes, when all of the brown stuff is hitting the rotating blades, a vacation is not the best thing to go on," said Dana Perino, who was President George W. Bush's press secretary.



BRUCE CHAMBERS, THE (SANTA ANA, CALIF.) ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/AP

President Barack Obama joins students and faculty of the University of California, Irvine, on the platform of the UCI commencement, giving the sign of the UCI Anteater and saying "Zot, Zot."

Obama: Climate change deniers ignore science

By NEDRA PICKLER
The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — President Barack Obama said denying climate change is like arguing the moon is made of cheese as he issued a call to action on global warming to Saturday's graduates of the University of California, Irvine.

Obama issued the call to the tens of thousands gathered at Angel Stadium even though he said Congress "is full of folks who stubbornly and automatically reject the scientific evidence" and say climate change is a hoax or a fad.

Obama said others duck the question. "They say, 'Hey, look, I'm not a scientist.' And I'll translate that for you: What that really means is, 'I know that man-made climate change really is happening, but if I admit it, I'll be run out of town by a radical fringe that thinks climate science is a liberal plot,'" he said.

Obama's address to about 8,000 graduates from the Orange County campus comes two weeks after he announced a

contentious plan to dramatically cut pollution from power plants. Obama also used the address to announce a \$1 billion competitive fund for communities who have experienced natural disasters to rebuild and prepare for the impact of extreme weather.

He described a political system consumed by "small things" but said Americans should be determined to do "big things," like addressing climate change, despite the type of opposition he faces from Congress.

"There's going to be a stubborn status quo and people determined to stymie your efforts to bring about change," he said. "There are going to be people who say you can't do something. There are going to be people who say you shouldn't bother trying. I've got some experience with this, myself."

"It's pretty rare that you'll encounter somebody who says the problem you're trying to solve simply doesn't exist," he continued. "When President Kennedy set us on a course to the moon, there were a number of people who made a serious case

that it wouldn't be worth it."

"But nobody ignored the science. I don't remember anybody saying the moon wasn't there or that it was made of cheese," Obama said.

The president said today's young dreamers are fed a steady diet of cynicism but argued they have a right to be optimistic.

"Consider this: Since the time most of you graduated from high school, fewer Americans are at war," Obama said. "More have health insurance. More are graduating from college. Our businesses have added more than 9 million new jobs. And the number of states where you're free to marry who you love has more than doubled. That's just some of the progress you've seen."

While in Orange County, Obama also raised money for the Democratic National Committee at a closed-door fundraiser at the Laguna Beach home of Getty oil heiress Anne Eberhart. About 25 people paid up to \$32,400 to participate in a roundtable discussion with the president.

NATION



JOHN MINICHILO/AP

Hundreds of demonstrators march across the Brooklyn Bridge on Saturday to call for tougher gun control laws in New York. The protest included relatives of some of those slain in the 2012 shooting rampage at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

Gun control advocates rally in NYC

By JONATHAN LEMIRE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — More than 1,000 demonstrators — including nearly 100 from Newtown, Conn., the site of the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting rampage — marched across the Brooklyn Bridge on Saturday, demanding that action be taken to stem the recent wave of mass shootings across the U.S.

Some carried photos of loved ones cut down by a bullet. Others held signs imploring Congress to act. Nearly all shouted out “Not one more,” a tear-stained rallying cry embraced by those who believe the U.S. needs tougher gun control laws.

The event was organized by several groups — including Moms Demand Action, Everytown for Gun Safety and Mayors Against Illegal Guns — which are all funded by former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg. The billionaire Bloomberg, who

was not in attendance, has become one of the most visible gun control advocates in the U.S. and has pumped millions of his own money into the cause.

“I want to see our laws protect our children, not our gun lobbyists,” said Andrew Morosky, 48, who lives in Newtown and whose children were friends with some of the 20 students who were killed along with six educators. “After what happened, I felt like I had to do something. I sat on the sidelines for too long.”

The rally began in downtown Brooklyn, where many chanted “Not one more.” That was the cry uttered by Richard Martinez, whose son Christopher was shot to death in Santa Barbara, Calif., last month when a young man went on a deadly rampage in the college town.

“We have to stop the madness,” said U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y. “Too many people have died, and too many lobbyists have

lied.” As the marchers slowly moved across the bridge toward Manhattan, many carried signs that read “Enough is Enough” and “Why are our kids dying while Congress does nothing?” Several dozen cars driving on the busy bridge beeped their horns in approval.

Shannon Watts, who organized the group Moms Demand Action, Erica Lafferty, whose mother, Dawn Hochsprung, was slain at Sandy Hook; and actress Amanda Peet urged the crowd to bombard their elected officials with requests for stricter firearms restrictions. The cheers from the crowd, which ended the march with a rally outside City Hall in Manhattan, were occasionally interrupted by shouts about the right to bear arms from a lone counterprotester.

Requests for comment by the National Rifle Association, the nation's largest gun rights lobbying group, were not immediately returned.

17 cases await opinions as high court wraps term

By MARK SHERMAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's crunch time at the Supreme Court, where the justices are racing to issue opinions in 17 cases over the next two weeks.

The religious rights of corporations, the speech rights of abortion protesters and the privacy rights of people under arrest are among the significant issues that are so far unresolved.

Summer travel, European teaching gigs and relaxation beckon, but only after the court hands down decisions in all the cases it has heard since October.

In rare instances, the justices will put off decisions and order a case to be argued again in the next term.

This is also the time of the year when a justice could announce a retirement. But the oldest of the justices, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, 81, has signaled she will serve at least one more year, and maybe longer.

The justices will meet Monday and again Thursday to issue opinions, and could wind up their work by the end of the month.

Here's a look at some of the cases that remain:

■ **Contraceptive coverage.** Corporations are claiming the right to exercise religious objections to covering women's contraceptives under their employee health insurance plans, despite the new health law's requirement that birth control be among a range of no-cost preventive services included in health plans.

■ **Abortion clinic buffer zones.** Abortion opponents are challenging as a violation of their speech rights a Massachusetts law mandating a 35-foot protest-free zone on public sidewalks outside abortion clinics.

■ **Cellphone searches.** Two cases weigh the power of police

to search the cellphones of people they place under arrest without first obtaining a warrant from a judge.

■ **Recess presidential appointments.** A federal appeals court said President Barack Obama misused the Constitution's recess power when he temporarily filled positions on the National Labor Relations Board in 2012.

■ **TV on the Internet.** Broadcasters are fighting Internet startup Aereo's practice of taking their television programming for free and providing it to subscribers who can then watch on smartphones and other portable devices.

■ **Greenhouse gases.** Industry groups assert that environmental regulators overstepped their bounds by trying to apply a provision of the Clean Air Act to control emissions of greenhouse gases from power plants and factories. This case is unlikely to affect the recent proposal from the Environmental Protection Agency to slash carbon dioxide emissions from power plants by nearly one-third by 2030; that plan involves a different part of the same law.

■ **Union fees.** Home health care workers in Illinois want the court to rule that public sector unions cannot collect fees from workers who object to being affiliated with a union.

■ **Securities fraud.** Investors could find it harder to bring class-action lawsuits over securities fraud at publicly traded companies in a case involving Halliburton Co., a provider of energy services.

■ **“False” campaign claims.** An anti-abortion group says state laws that try to police false statements during political campaigns run afoul of the First Amendment.

Obama gets Philly rails back on track

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Commuter rail service in the Philadelphia area was restored early Sunday, just hours after workers returned to their jobs following a brief strike that was ended when President Barack Obama intervened.

Jerri Williams, spokeswoman for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, said all workers scheduled for morning shifts Sunday showed up and some train lines with early starts, such as the Airport Line, were rolling before 5 a.m. A few

hours later, the company said on its website that normal operations had resumed.

The strike began after negotiations between SEPTA and its engineers and electricians unions failed to reach a new contract deal. It shut down 13 train lines that carry commuters from Philadelphia to the suburbs, Philadelphia International Airport and New Jersey.

Obama on Saturday granted Republican Gov. Tom Corbett's request to create a presidential emergency board to mediate the

contract dispute, forcing the 400 union workers to go back. Obama ordered the establishment of the three-member board effective at 12:01 a.m. Sunday and called for “a swift and smooth resolution.”

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers president Terry Gallagher said Obama's intervention was “what we were waiting for.”

“We have been five years without an agreement, trying to get to this point, and we're happy we're here now,” Gallagher said.

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NATION

Meth pours into central Calif. as a liquid

By SCOTT SMITH
The Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. — In methamphetamine's seedy underworld, traffickers are disguising the drug as a liquid to smuggle it into the United States from Mexico.

Dissolved in a solution, it's sealed in tequila bottles or plastic detergent containers to fool border agents and traffic officers. Once deep in California's Central Valley, a national distribution hub, meth cooks convert it into crystals — the most sought-after form on the street.

Tough policing has driven the highly toxic superlabs south of the border, where meth is manufactured outside the sight of U.S. law enforcement, but the smaller conversion labs are popping up domestically in neighborhoods, such as one in Fresno where a house exploded two years ago.

People inside the home had sealed it tightly so the tale-tell fumes didn't give them away.

"These guys, they don't have Ph.D.s in chemistry," said Sgt. Matt Alexander, of the Fresno County Sheriff's Office. "They're focused on not getting caught."

Investigators say it's impossible to know how much liquid meth crosses the border, but agents in Central California say they have been seeing more of it in the past few years.

A California Highway Patrol officer in late 2012 pulled over a 20-year-old man on Interstate 5 who said he was headed to Oregon from Southern California and seemed nervous. The officer found 15 bottles in the trunk full of dissolved meth but labeled as Mexican tequila.

The man pleaded guilty to drug trafficking and received a federal prison sentence of 46 months.

Three men were indicted in late 2013 and await trial after a drug task force found 12 gallons of liquid meth in a Fresno house along with 42 pounds of the drug ready for sale, four guns and 5,000 rounds of ammunition.

Officers raided a Madera home earlier this year, finding a lab used to convert liquid meth into 176 pounds of crystals with a street value over \$1 million. No-body was arrested, but agents



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY PARC ENVIRONMENTAL/AP

Jeff Davis, a hazardous materials specialist for PARC Environmental, cleans up a methamphetamine conversion lab inside a house in Madera, Calif., in March.

said the bust dealt a blow to the organization behind the lab.

Mike Prado, resident agent in charge of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Investigation's Fresno office, said law enforcement agencies are always on the lookout for creative ways cartels smuggle meth.

"We've become better at detecting certain things," Prado said. "When they catch on to that, they modify their methods."

The superlabs driven south to Mexico are notoriously toxic to people and the environment, but Prado said the small conversion labs in the Central Valley are more dangerous. His agents have found them in densely populated apartment buildings and foreclosed homes in quiet neighborhoods where children play on the street.

In the conversion process,



A traffic stop on Interstate 5 led to the seizure of multiple tequila bottles disguising liquid methamphetamine near Coalinga, Calif., in November 2012.

cooks evaporate the liquid and use highly combustible chemicals such as acetone to make crystals.

The fumes are trapped inside. "A spark can turn this into a fireball," Prado said.

That's what happened in 2012, when a home in a middle-class area of Fresno was blown off its foundation. The blast shot the air conditioner into a neighbor's yard; another neighbor had to replace a roof ripped by the concussion. Two men ran from the home, and investigators said a third was seriously injured.

Central California's interstates and proximity to Mexico make it an attractive distribution hub for cartels, officials say.

John Donnelly, chief recently in charge of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's Fresno office, said agents all over the country have tracked meth to California's Central Valley. "We're the source point for Seattle, Portland, Alaska and as far east as the Carolinas," Donnelly said.

Not all the meth traveling north makes its way to Central California. Two men were arrested last month in San Bernardino when investigators found a conversion lab, 206 pounds of crystal meth and 250 gallons of the liquid capable of producing 1,250 pounds of crystals.

The seized drugs, which investigators suspect came from Mexico, were valued at \$7.2 million.

Not all liquid meth makes it across the border. Last year, a 16-year-old from Mexico was stopped at the crossing near San Diego. He volunteered to take "a big sip" to convince inspectors the liquid he had was only apple juice, not meth. The teenager began screaming in pain and died within hours.

Eric L. Olson, a Latin America researcher at the Woodrow Wilson International Center in Washington, said he witnessed agents seizing liquid meth disguised in soda bottles during a 2012 tour of the border crossing at Laredo, Texas.

Liquid meth is just the latest innovation for transporting drugs for profit, he said. Smugglers have used tunnels, submarines, drones and once, a 90-year-old farmer's car was used as a decoy, Olson said.

"There's no end to the creativity to getting the drug to market when there's demand," he said of the turn to liquid meth.

Man exonerated in slaying faces new murder charge

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — A Chicago man who served 32 years in prison before DNA evidence overturned his conviction in the 1980 rape and slaying of a 3-year-old girl now is charged with killing a man after a dispute in a dice game.

Andre Davis, 53, was charged with murder Thursday in the October death of Jamal Harmon, 19, whose body was found shot and stabbed in an alley. A judge or-

dered Davis held without bail.

A second man, Derrick Hilliard, 37, was charged Friday with first-degree murder and unlawful use of a weapon by a felon in Harmon's death.

Prosecutors allege that Davis' nephew shot and wounded Harmon in a dispute over money lost in a dice game, then Davis helped load the man — who was still alive, according to witnesses — into the trunk of a car.

During Thursday's court hear-

ing, Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Robert Mack said witnesses also told investigators that Davis told people he had cut Harmon's throat and intended to dump the body, the Chicago Sun-Times reported.

It was unclear Friday whether Davis or Hilliard had attorneys. Davis had a public defender at Thursday's hearing, but the Cook County Public Defender's Office said Friday that it was no longer representing him.

Northwestern University's Center on Wrongful Convictions, which represented him in the previous case, declined to comment on Davis' arrest or whether it would be representing him in the current case.

Davis was freed from prison in 2012 after spending more than three decades behind bars following his conviction — before DNA testing was available — in the 1980 slaying of 3-year-old Brianna Stickle in Rantoul.

In 2004, Davis requested that evidence gathered at the crime scene be tested. The tests revealed that blood and semen found at the scene did not come from Davis.

It wasn't until March 2012 that an Illinois appellate court ordered that Davis be granted a new trial. A few months later, prosecutors dropped the case against him, and Davis was released from the supermax prison in Joliet.

WORLD

Ukraine vows to punish militants who downed jet

DAVID MCHUGH
AND MARKO DOBRNIAKOVIC
The Associated Press

NOVOHANNIVKA, Ukraine — Ukraine's president declared Sunday a day of mourning and vowed to punish those responsible for pro-Russia separatists shot down a Ukrainian military transport plane, killing all 49 crew and troops aboard.

It was a bitter setback for the Ukrainian forces — the deadliest single incident yet in their escalating battle against an armed insurgency that the government, backed by the U.S., insists is supported by Russia.

The downing of the plane drew condemnation and concern from the White House, European leaders and U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. Analysts said it could bring a renewed emphasis on increasing sanctions against Russia.

"[This] will refocus attention on the fact that Russia does not seem to be doing very much to moderate the insurgency (or) the cross-border resupply of separatists," said Timothy Ash, an analyst at Standard Bank PLC. "I would expect the focus to return to sanctions next week."

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko spoke firmly to glum-faced security officials at a televised emergency meeting Saturday, scolding the head of the country's SBU security service for "omissions" in measures to protect military aircraft.

Poroshenko called for "a detailed analysis of the reasons" for the lapse and hinted that personnel changes were imminent. His office said he vowed to punish "those responsible for the tragedy in Luhansk."

In a conversation with French President Francois Hollande, Poroshenko expressed hope that the



Ukrainian protesters turn over cars near the Russian Embassy during a rally in Kiev, Ukraine, on Saturday.

European Union would decide on further sanctions against Russia if what he called the illegal border crossings and the supply of weapons did not cease.

Nine crewmembers and 40 troops were aboard the Il-76 troop transport when it went down early Saturday as it approached the airport at Luhansk, the Ukrainian prosecutor general's office said.

The plane's tail section and other pieces of scorched wreckage lay in a field near the village of Novohannivka, 12 miles south of Luhansk. An Associated Press reporter saw a dozen or more armed separatists inspecting the crash site.

Defense Ministry spokesman Bohdan Senyk said the rebels used anti-aircraft guns and a

heavy machine gun to down the plane, while the prosecutor general's office said rebels used an anti-aircraft missile.

Luhansk, a city near the border with Russia, is one of two eastern areas where separatists have seized government buildings and declared independence. Ukrainian forces still control the Luhansk airport.

In other fighting, five border guards were killed and seven wounded Saturday in the southern port of Mariupol when their column of vehicles was ambushed, the guards' service said.

The U.S. government reiterated its support for Poroshenko's government and rejected Russia's statements that it was not arming the rebels.

Gunman kills 8 in Yemen bus attack

SANAA, Yemen — A gunman opened fire on a bus transporting military hospital staff in the southern Yemeni city of Aden on Sunday, killing eight people, including two women, and wounding a dozen others, security officials and witnesses said.

The attack on the bus in the commercial district of Sana'a took place early in the day before rush hour. Shaher Mohammed Ali, a worker in the district, said he saw a lone masked gunman open fire on the bus after it slowed down before a ramp. The gunman then fled the scene in a car, Ali said.

Security officials had earlier said more than one gunman was involved in the attack, which they said bore the hallmarks of al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, a powerful local militant group that has targeted military and police.

Israeli PM says Hamas took missing teens

JERUSALEM — Israel's prime minister has accused the Palestinian militant group Hamas of kidnapping three Israeli teenagers who disappeared in the West Bank over the weekend.

Benjamin Netanyahu made the announcement after Israel rounded up 80 Palestinian suspects, including dozens of Hamas members, in an overnight sweep.

Netanyahu told his Cabinet on Sunday that "the ones that conducted the kidnapping of our teenagers are Hamas members."

Parliament candidate shot dead in Kosovo

PRISTINA, Kosovo — Kosovo police said a parliamentary candidate from Prime Minister Hashim Thaci's ruling party was shot dead in an apparent assassination as he walked out of a restaurant.

Police said in a statement Sunday that Elvis Pista — a flamboyant politician recognizable for his spiked hair — was shot three times at close range shortly after midnight in the western town of Oranovac, his hometown.

Authorities believe a handgun equipped with a silencer was used. The killing comes amid heightened tensions between political rivals after the June 8 parliamentary elections.

Syrian government forces advance in NW

BEIRUT — Government forces battled their way into a village in northwestern Syria near the Turkish border Sunday as they rolled back a 3-month-old rebel offensive in the rugged coastal region that is the ancestral homeland of President Bashar Assad, activists and state media said.

Islamic rebel fighters launched a surprise assault in Latakia province in March, pushing south from the Turkish border to seize a string of villages in the lush, mountainous terrain. The military, nervous about an incursion in a bastion of government support, dispatched reinforcements to blunt the rebel advance and eventually turn the tide.

From The Associated Press

China adding school to outpost in disputed waters

BY LOUISE WATT
The Associated Press

BEIJING — China has begun building a school on a remote island in the South China Sea to serve the children of military personnel and others, expanding the rugged outpost it created two years ago to strengthen its claims to disputed waters and islands.

China established the settlement of Sansha — which Beijing designates a "city" — and has a permanent population of 1,443 — on tiny Yongxing island to administer hundreds of thousands of square

miles of water where it wants to strengthen its control over potentially oil-rich islands that are also claimed by other Asian nations.

Vietnam, the Philippines and the United States criticized Beijing for establishing Sansha, saying it risked escalating regional tensions. The island, also known as Woody Island, is about 220 miles south of China's southernmost province and is part of the Paracel chain, which is also claimed by Vietnam.

Tensions in the area have escalated since China last month placed an oil rig in waters about

20 miles from the Paracel Islands, leading to ongoing sea confrontations between Chinese and Vietnamese vessels.

The Sansha government said in a statement on its website that construction on the school started Saturday and was expected to take 18 months. It said there were about 40 children of school age on Yongxing Island and that the school could also educate the children of police, army personnel and civilians stationed on the islands, some of whom had to stay with grandparents in far-off hometowns.

When China created Sansha in July 2012, the outpost had a post office, bank, supermarket and hospital and a population of about 1,000. By December, it had a permanent population of 1,443, which can sometimes swell by 2,000, according to the Sansha government.

Now it has an airport, hotel, library, five main roads, cellphone coverage and a 24-hour satellite TV station, according to the government. It also has its own supply ship that brings in food, construction materials and people.

Pakistan says dozens killed in strikes on militants

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Pakistani jets pounded insurgent hideouts in the country's northwest early Sunday, killing dozens of militants in an aggressive response targeting those believed responsible for a five-hour siege of the Karachi airport a week ago, officials said.

The Pakistani government has been under pressure to combat the resilient insurgency that has plagued the country for years after the shocking attack June 8 on its busiest airport, which left 26 people and 10 assailants dead. Government efforts that started months ago to negotiate with the militants appeared to be going

nowhere, and the airport violence has made the talks even less likely to succeed.

There were conflicting accounts of how many people were killed in the airstrikes in the North Waziristan tribal area bordering Afghanistan. The military said in a statement that more than 50 militants were killed, although intelligence officials earlier put the toll as high as 100.

"There were confirmed reports of presence of foreign and local terrorists in these hideouts who were linked in planning the Karachi airport attack," the military said.

The area where the strikes occurred is remote and dangerous

for journalists, making it impossible to independently verify the accounts.

Residents in North Waziristan said they were woken up after midnight to the sound of jets roaring overhead but said the strikes happened in a remote mountainous area.

"All the family members gathered in the yard in fear," said one local resident, Tawab Khan, from the village of Boyapal, about 5 miles from where the airstrikes hit. "We could hear big bangs but they didn't come from very close to our area."

The military said most of the dead were Uzbeks. Uzbek militants have long based themselves

in Pakistan's northwestern tribal areas as do a plethora of other armed groups such as al-Qaida, the Pakistani Taliban and the Haqqani network — a Taliban-affiliated group.

The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, along with the Pakistani Taliban, claimed responsibility for the airport attack in what was a rare instance of the group striking within Pakistan.

The militant group was formed in 1991 to overthrow the Uzbek government and install an Islamic caliphate there, but later expanded that goal to include all of Central Asia. The organization has attacked U.S. and NATO targets in Afghanistan.

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OPINION

Hillary's message: It's all about me

By ANN McFEATHERS

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

I did it Mere hours after hearing Hillary Clinton say she and her husband had to exploit their public service by earning millions and millions and millions of dollars to pay their mortgages by paid public speeches and memoirs, my finger clicked on "buy" on my e-reader.

Disbelieving that her new book, "Hard Choices," could possibly be as self-serving and boring as critics described, I paid \$14.99 to see for myself. After all, I have interviewed her, drunk wine with her, traveled with her in such exotic places as China and Ohio, and followed her political ambitions for decades.

Believe me, the book is a self-serving travesty. It was written by three ghost writers who stuffed it with as many facts as they could find. If you have followed the Hillary saga at all, there is nothing in this book that will surprise you. Did you know as secretary of state she visited 112 countries and traveled nearly 1 million miles at our expense?

Nobody doubts she intends to run for president. And if it weren't for Hillary, political reporters would be bereft, even with House GOP leader Eric Cantor's stunning flamboyance in Virginia. (Life comes at you fast, Mr. Ex-Majority Leader.)

Meanwhile, back to the book, it's a little hard to accept her premise that her book clearly explains what a tense encounter in St. Petersburg, Russia, means for families in St. Petersburg, Fla., how a collapsing business in Athens, Greece, affects businesses in Athens, Ga., and how a revolution in Cairo, Egypt, affects life in Cairo, Ill. Good thought, but, no, the book doesn't explain it or what she would do about any



RICHARD DREW/AP

Hillary Clinton discusses her career in government and her new book, "Hard Choices," at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York on Thursday.

of that as president.

This book will make her more money (a \$14 million advance has been mentioned), keep her in the limelight, salute President Barack Obama while cleverly praising herself and reveal nothing detrimental to her eventual campaign. She also claims she now feels free to say what she actually thinks although she doesn't do much of it.

Here are the main points: She fought a tough race with Obama in 2008. She respected him. She was floored when he asked her to be secretary of state. After much angst, she said no. She had to pay off her \$6 million campaign debt. Then she said yes because she's a Methodist. "Do all the good you can, at all the times you can, at all the people you can, as long as ever you can," And Obama assured her, "I think

we can become good friends." They did, merging Obamaworld and Hillaryland. Sometimes they disagreed, but she can't talk about that while he is still in office.

She learned her new job was being the nation's chief diplomat. Obama's principal adviser on foreign policy and CEO of a big bureaucracy. She had to balance her time and energy and decided not to pick a few issues and own them but "pay attention to the whole chessboard." But she did want to pay more attention to Asia-Pacific and made that her first trip to "signal to Asia and the world that America was back."

And she wants you to know that just one penny of every federal dollar spent goes to diplomacy and development.

Hillary studied her predecessors for guidance. When she disagreed, she squeezed the paw of the teddy bear in her office to hear it sing: "Don't worry. Be happy."

By the way, America is not in decline; its greatest days are ahead if each generation believes. And she's sorry about voting for the war in Iraq.

Hillary Clinton is remarkable. Warm, funny, smart and incredibly diligent and ambitious, she was the high school friend who'd stay up with you half the night as you moaned about a devastating personal crisis such as not making the cheerleading squad and then she'd ace the big test at 8 a.m.

She may well be the first female president. During no bridges in this book, she cites a lot of facts about the world. Really, a lot. Ultimately, she had no big diplomatic breakthroughs. We learn nothing new about Benghazi and the deaths of four Americans. This catalogue of crises will neither help nor hinder her in getting back to work.

In short, I spent \$14.99 so you don't have to, but, of course, millions will.

Ann McFeathers is an op-ed columnist for McClatchy-Tribune.

Don't read any tea leaves in Cantor's loss

By KATHLEEN PARKER

A bout that stunning defeat. Conventional Wisdom, that self-righteous propagandist, has it that Republican House Majority Leader Eric Cantor's trouncing by an academic, tea-sipping nobody marks the end of the GOP establishment.

The tea party candidate crushed Cantor, they say. The old-guard Republican Party is tottering. It's over.

And those were the Democrats talking. Funny thing is, the tea party folks had been saying more or less the same thing, for exactly the same reason. It fit the narrative that served both groups. The tea party was losing its power to overthrow the titans. Witness the primary victories of a couple of old-timer targets, South Carolina's Lindsey Graham and Kentucky's Mitch McConnell.

The Democratic Party was losing its narrative that the tea party wacko-birds control the GOP.

Thus, Dave Brat, the Republican nominee for Cantor's seat, was a gift from Google. Or God. But I repeat myself. The narrative is back, baby!

In the nation's capital, the mourning for Cantor was over faster than a Rick Perry gay fundraiser. It is an awesome day — or something — when Nancy Pelosi and Ted Cruz are grinning about the same state of affairs. You don't know whether to signal Scotty to beam you up or whistle for Toto.

The truth is, the tea party will be lucky to oust Mississippi Sen. Thad Cochran in a primary runoff, though he would hardly be considered a rout. Cochran has been on the

run lately, stumbling over a series of errors and literally dashing out the back door of one event to evade CNN's Dana Bash.

And, as though the South needed one more anecdote to convince the rest of the nation that something seriously strange has contaminated the region's DNA, Cochran recently reminisced fondly of his day-dream "all kinds of indecent things with animals," when he was just a young lad visiting the state's Pine Belt.

"I know some of you know what that is," he told the Hattiesburg, Miss., audience.

Oh, do tell. On second thought, oh, don't.

Two victories, assuming the second, hardly bestow bragging rights on the tea party. Nor, consequently, will they bolster the Democratic narrative that the tea party has conquered the GOP.

Also, let's not forget, Cantor wasn't an old establishment guy. He was one of the "Young Guns," the title of the book in which he, Kevin McCarthy and Paul Ryan featured themselves as the new generation of conservative leadership. Those are some halfalutin words to live up to.

Reality check: People who self-identify as "young guns" are setting themselves up to get shot down. It isn't that they can't gun-sling with the best of them; it's that they feel the need to throw away the gun.

Young gun, eh? Well, see about that.

Indeed, the tea party didn't really support the Republican Brat (how delicious is that name?), who raised a measly \$231,000 to Cantor's \$5.7 million. Conservative, tea-party-leaning Republicans ultimately may have supported him, in part thanks to talk radio promoters, but they weren't expecting Brat to win any more than he was.

Brat, an economics professor at Randolph-Macon College, was so surprised that he has yet to think out his platform. Other than water-cooler talks at the gym about ethical systems, free markets and the rule of law (read, "no amnesty"), he hasn't really nailed down his policy positions.

So MSNBC's Chuck Todd discovered upon asking Brat on Wednesday about raising the minimum wage. Sort of breezy with his answer, saying he didn't have a "well-crafted response," and "you can't make up wage rates," Brat explained that he didn't get much sleep the night before.

Poor Zachary Werrell, Brat's 23-year-old campaign manager, who was so overwhelmed that he couldn't find time to return a call to House Speaker John Boehner and had to scramble to hire a communications staffer. In the meantime, Werrell uttered the saddest words in political history:

"We're not going to be making any statements until we get professional PR help," he said in an interview with Politico.

Brat, in other words, isn't quite ready for the prime-time slot he's expected to win in November. But he had something Cantor didn't have — a ground game. Brat's lack of political sophistication served him well. Instead of watching polls, he knocked on doors. As for Cantor, the polls showed him winning, so why bother to press flesh?

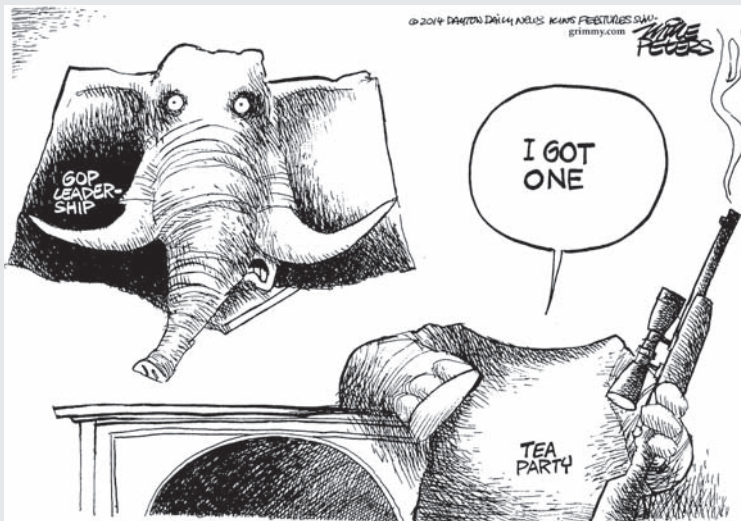
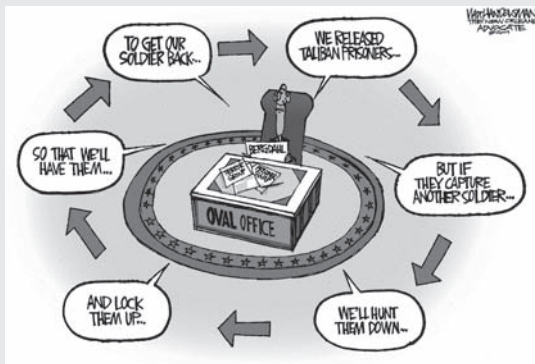
Here's another reality check: It's always about the ground game.

This is the real lesson of Cantor's stunning defeat: Sometimes a loser is just a loser.

Kathleen Parker is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



WORLD

‘The Great War’ remembered



VIRGINIA MAYO/AP

Kaylene Biggs, center, great-granddaughter of World War I Australian soldier Andrew Bayne, stands with her family on April 24 in front of Bayne's grave at Westhof Farm Commonwealth Cemetery in Nieuwkerke, Belgium.

Soldier's family finds long-delayed closure

By RAF CASERT
The Associated Press

NIEUWKERKE, Belgium — In a neatly clipped corner of the Westhof Farm Cemetery, an Australian family huddled around Pvt. Andrew Bayne's grave. One century after the start of World War I, the family found closure paying homage to a forebear who had traveled half the world to meet his death, his stomach ripped open by an exploding shell, in the horrors of Flanders Fields.

Bayne left his wife, Katie, with four young children in Brisbane and a prescient letter of regret: "What a damned fool I was to ever have enlisted."

Bayne lies alongside other Commonwealth victims and a handful of German dead, the rows of pristine, white tombstones stretching over rich, undulating pastures. Belgium and France are still scarred by more than 1,000 graveyards, countless bomb craters, rusting gas shells, bunkers and trenches that tore apart the Western Front for four years.

The front line of death and destruction burned through the Alps, Central Europe and beyond. It claimed some 14 million lives — 5 million civilians and 9 million soldiers, sailors and airmen from 28 countries. The 1914-18 conflict was so unprecedented in its scope and savagery that it became known simply as "The Great War."

At least 7 million troops were left permanently disabled and



Andrew Bayne, from Brisbane, Australia, enlisted to go to war along with his three brothers.

families across the globe, much like Bayne's, were wrecked.

Despite the vows of "never again" across a shell-shocked world, the outcome of the conflict only sowed the bitter seeds that led to World War II and more slaughter. The nationalist tensions that set off the killing never really died, most recently resurfacing in Ukraine and Russia.

For Kaylene Biggs, misty-eyed after finally facing the grave of her great-grandfather, the war's far-reaching legacy makes remembrance all the more important.

"It isn't until you do visit the battlefields that you realize the huge amount of loss and sacrifice," she said amid the twitter of birds and

the faraway galloping of a horse. "Now, it seems so peaceful."

The early summer of 1914 seemed just as tranquil to most Europeans. By that time, the Bayne family already had been in Australia for two years, hoping to build a richer life after toiling for meager rewards on a Scottish farm.

Little did they know that Europe wouldn't let them go so easily.

Both sides initially had expected a quick war, but it soon became a deadly stalemate the likes of which had never been seen. Sometimes tens of thousands would die in a single day. Artillery was relentless. Toxic gas was introduced in modern warfare with devastating effect. Because of it, the need for fresh manpower was enormous — and the reach of the British Empire was global.

It was only a matter of time for the war to turn up at Andrew Bayne's doorstep in Brisbane. Bayne was hardly gung-ho about the war. What turned things around, Biggs said, was that "one day in the street, he was handed a white feather," at the time a universal sign for cowardice. "So he went and joined up."

He enlisted in June 1916, left Australia four months later — and arrived in France from England in March of the following year, just one indication of the pace of war a century ago.

Family archives showed Bayne fought at Bullecourt in northern France, where two battles cost



VIRGINIA MAYO/AP

Kaylene Biggs places a wooden cross with a poppy and a message on the grave of her great-grandfather, Andrew Bayne.

Australia 10,000 casualties and hardly moved the front line.

Bayne, like so many millions of soldiers, long remained hopeful as the war stretched into its fourth year. The Germans, he wrote home, "are about starved out and they can't last much longer." He added: "Cheer up. I will be with you yet."

On Aug. 19, 1917, a German shell burst close to him as he was on the Ypres front holding the line close to Messines Ridge, little more than a molehill but a killer of thousands on both sides. The pain and agony were recorded matter-of-factly in a witness report: "The wounds were left arm, right of face and stomach — the latter a bad one."

Bayne could still call for a stretcher and, before losing consciousness, utter, "They have got me." He died soon afterward at age 32.

Like for the hundreds of thousands expected to come to Europe from across the world during the next four years, the Baynes' pilgrimage has been multigenerational. Kaylene and her husband, Peter, also brought their three children.

"His children and his wife weren't able to come," said Kaylene's daughter, Jaleesa, 18. "They, in a sense, didn't get closure, but we are able to come here and able to see what they always wanted to see."

For Biggs and her family, a trip across the globe to a simple grave in a small cemetery has meant the world.

"With all this sadness, I am so thankful that he actually does have a grave, somewhere for his descendants to go to pay their respects," she said. "I feel comforted that his sacrifice has not been forgotten through time."

SCIENCE AND MEDICINE

Savage beating rewires man's brain

By CRAIG SAILOR

The (Tacoma, Wash.) News Tribune

TACOMA, Wash.

In 2002, Jason Padgett was a Camaro-driving, mullet-wearing, muscle-bound furniture salesman who didn't think much beyond finding the next party.

"I was a total goof-off. Always looking to have fun, chasing girls, drink, party, drive super-fast," Padgett recalled recently in his Northeast Tacoma home.

That all came to an abrupt end when he was mugged outside a Tacoma karaoke bar. The beating was so severe it left him in constant pain.

But something else happened that night. The blows somehow rewired his brain. That, in turn, gave him the ability to see and understand geometry and math in ways the rest of us can't.

His unusual tale has been put into an autobiography, "Struck by Genius: How a Brain Injury Made Me a Mathematical Marvel." The book, released in April, has garnered international attention in People and Entertainment Weekly magazines and features on "CBS This Morning," "Nightline" and dozens of other media outlets.

By his own admission, there was nothing special about Padgett before the night of Sept. 13, 2002. Raised mostly in Alaska, he moved to the South Sound in the late 1990s to live with his father. Soon he was managing his dad's futon business, Planet Futon, near the Tacoma

Mall.

On that Friday night in 2002, he joined friends at a Mexican restaurant and karaoke bar near Wright Park. When the evening of singing and drinking was winding down, a bartender spotted Padgett's fat wallet and surreptitiously alerted two ne'er-do-well patrons.

The two men followed Padgett out of the bar and then attacked him, hitting him repeatedly in the head.

After the men fled, Padgett was treated for a concussion and released from Tacoma General Hospital. He returned home, but something wasn't the same. Aside from the pain of his injuries, Padgett was seeing the world differently. Objects that once moved smoothly

face of a puddle without seeing them as geometric shapes.

Confused and frightened, Padgett retreated to the sanctuary of his home and didn't come out.

For four years.

Self-imposed exile

One day during his self-imposed exile, Padgett was watching TV and saw a feature on Daniel Tammet, a high-functioning autistic savant. Tammet, an essayist, is known for his superhuman memory and synesthesia, a neurological phenomenon in which people perceive with more than one sense.

Though the condition is rare, an often-encountered form of synesthesia involves perceiving letters and numbers in specific colors. So, a "synthete" might always see the letter C as blue or the number 6 as red. Names and words can take on unique visual characteristics in the synthete's mind.

Padgett instantly knew that what he was seeing was some form of synesthesia.

"It was nice hearing it because I had questioned myself a lot," he said.

Since the beating, Padgett had tried to explain to people what he was seeing. He made drawing after drawing of his visual representations. The most common was of pi, π , the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter, usually is expressed as a number that would stretch to infinity, beginning with 3.14159. But Padgett draws it as a series of overlapping polygons that eventually create a circle.

He showed the drawings to anyone he'd come across. More often than not, the reaction he got was bafflement.

He knew that to understand what he was seeing and to explain it to others, he needed to learn math. In a sense, he had suddenly learned a new language but didn't know how to speak it.

His first stop was Tacoma Community College. Padgett, a college dropout, signed up for a developmental math class in 2006—the kind of course taken by people who have never understood or have struggled with math. The instructor was Tracey Haynie.

"Jason was so fun to have in class because he got it," Haynie recalled. "He would sit in my office for hours just asking questions and wanting to go through things in more detail. He had a hunger for it."

In 2011, he traveled to Stockholm to speak at a conference on consciousness during which synesthesia was a subject.

While in Europe, he was examined at a lab in Helsinki. An MRI showed that his parietal lobe, a part of the brain that cannot normally

be accessed by the conscious mind, lit up when Padgett was shown mathematical formulas that gave rise to fractal imagery, but not when shown nonsense formulas.

Also, only his left brain was active when he viewed the formulas, whereas both sides were active when he looked at the nonsense formulas. That led researchers to speculate that his right brain had received the majority of the injuries and caused the other side to overcompensate.

Padgett's situation is reminiscent of some autistic individuals who paradoxically have prodigious math or memory skills and yet lack basic social skills or even the ability to take care of their basic needs. One area of the brain seems to malfunction while another excels.

For the first time since the mugging, Padgett felt he had a diagnosis and an understanding of what was going on in his brain.

A marvel at geometry

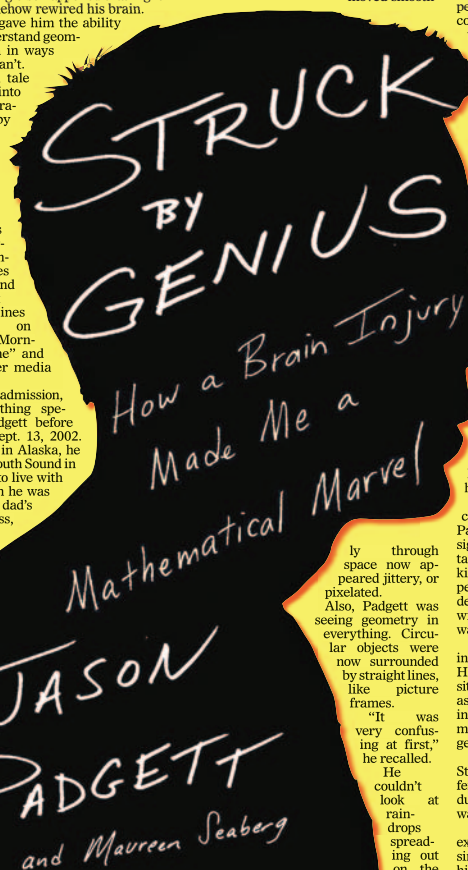
Though the title of his book calls Padgett a "mathematical marvel," it's a little misleading. He needs a calculator to work complicated math just like most people. What he's a marvel at, apparently, is geometry.

"Curves are an illusion, created by relativity," Padgett said. He can discuss the uncertainty principle, calculus, the Doppler effect and relativity in an almost non-stop manner.

Padgett is 43 now — "a prime number," he pointed out. He knows the exact number of days until his wife, Elena, is due to give birth to their first child — a girl.

The beating still causes Padgett physical pain to this day, but the event has altered his life in so many good ways, he said. There are times, though, he misses the state of consciousness he had before the mugging.

"My brain is never off," he said. "Sometimes it would be nice to have it off."



Jason Padgett's autobiography, "Struck by Genius: How a Brain Injury Made Me a Mathematical Marvel," was released in April.

MCT

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Steer breaks free, runs wild down city streets

MD BALTIMORE — Baltimore police shot and killed a steer that escaped from a city slaughterhouse on a downtown street Friday morning, a spokeswoman said.

The animal was shot shortly after 10:15 a.m. in the Mount Vernon neighborhood, and police confirmed it escaped from the George G. Ruppberger and Sons Inc. slaughterhouse in west Baltimore.

Sgt. Sarah Connolly said police received calls from business owners concerned about the animal running loose. The neighborhood is home to numerous bars, restaurants and shops.

The animal was "increasingly aggressive," and officers made several attempts to trap it before killing it, police said on the department's Facebook page.

Feds: Honeymooner punched flight attendant

HI HONOLULU — Federal prosecutors say a drunken passenger assaulted a flight attendant while flying from Japan to Honolulu.

Kenji Okamoto pleaded guilty Friday to interfering with a flight attendant's duties by assaulting and intimidating him.

According to a criminal complaint, Okamoto was flying first-class from Osaka for his honeymoon last month when flight attendants noticed he was drunk before takeoff and continued drinking alcohol during the flight.

The court documents said Okamoto got upset when one of the flight attendants wouldn't take his tray away. Okamoto allegedly punched a flight attendant who intervened in an attempt to diffuse the situation.

Okamoto faces a maximum 20-year prison sentence.

Police: Trio use fake gun to steal real ones

CA EL CAJON — Police said a man and two boys used a replica gun to steal real ones from a San Diego County gun store but were arrested when their getaway car pulled into a parking lot with no exit.

Police Lt. Rob Ransweiler said one suspect pointed the fake gun at an employee Friday while the other two smashed open display cases at Hiram's Guns in El Cajon. Ransweiler said they took several handguns and fled in a red sedan.

Police spotted the car on Interstate 8 and chased it into La Mesa, where the driver turned into a storage facility parking lot and was blocked in by a wall.

Coast Guard rescues rower crossing Atlantic

NY NEW YORK — A Scottish rower attempting a trans-Atlantic voyage was rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard off the coast of Long Island.

The Coast Guard said Niall Iain Macdonald, 39, was rescued



YALONDA M. JAMES, THE (MEMPHIS, TENN.) COMMERCIAL APPEAL/AP

Getting a leg up

Daniel Robertson, with vendor Scents By Alameen, of Greensboro, N.C., sets up his booth at the 21st annual Urban Music Festival at Robert R. Church Park in Memphis, Tenn., on Friday.

early Saturday about 50 miles south of Shinnecock, N.Y.

Macdonald said on his website he hoped to row solo from New York to Scotland to raise money for the Scottish Association for Mental Health.

Macdonald made a distress call Friday, and the Coast Guard responded. A Coast Guard cutter based in Bayonne, N.J., located the rower around midnight.

Lt. James Provost said Macdonald was in pain and his face was covered in blood from a cut to his head.

Biting-fly explosion hurts loon reproduction

WI MILWAUKEE — Swarms of biting flies are attacking loons in northern Wisconsin this season like never before, causing the birds to abandon their nests in record numbers.

Wildlife scientists who track the tuxedoed birds said the black fly population exploded just as the loons began incubating their eggs and has caused more than 80 percent of the loons to abandon their nests in Vilas County and more than 70 percent of nests in Oneida County.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources researcher Michael Meyer said a species of black flies has a particular attraction to loons and have pestered them in the past, but nothing like this year. Meyer said the intensity of the flies is the worst he's seen in 25 years.

Mexican police release kidnapped American

TX MCALLEN — Mexican law enforcement authorities have secured the release of a 27-year-old American woman kidnapped on June 1.

The McAllen Monitor reported Saturday that the woman told authorities she had been tied up for eight days. A Tamaulipas state government news release said the unidentified woman was rescued when kidnappers waited for ransom money outside a mall in the border town of Reynosa.

Police said they have arrested seven people in connection with the abduction.

Four people were arrested during the failed ransom exchange. The news release said two other men and a 14-year-old girl were arrested on suspicion they told kidnappers the location of law enforcement authorities. The girl is also suspected of delivering food to the homes where the woman was held.

Mom: Tot forced to urinate in seat on plane

MA BOSTON — A Massachusetts woman said she was nearly kicked off a flight after her 3-year-old son was forced to urinate in her seat.

Jennifer Deveraux told WBZ-TV that it happened Monday on JetBlue Flight 518 from New York to Boston.

Deveraux said the plane was

delayed on the tarmac when her daughter, Summers, asked to use the bathroom. Deveraux said, the flight attendant said, "No, sit down," and Summers urinated in her seat.

Deveraux said she got up to clean the mess and the attendant yelled at her again. JetBlue said it's investigating. It later tweeted that "there are very strict FAA regulations when a plane is on the tarmac."

Museum will be a new draw for pigeon lovers

OK OKLAHOMA CITY A new road trip destination in central Oklahoma focuses on the history of the domestic pigeon and its contributions to mankind for thousands of years.

The Oklahoma reported that the American Pigeon Museum and Library in northeast Oklahoma City contains numerous photographs, paintings, trophies, artifacts, collectables and much more memorabilia.

Pigeons were considered among the fastest way to send messages until the telegraph was invented. They played a tremendous role in both world wars, and they are still a way to send an undetectable message.

State has highest rate of texting teen drivers

SD SIOUX FALLS — A new report released

THE CENSUS

53,500

The number of people who have applied for a permit to hunt moose in Maine, according to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Of the 3,095 permits to be handed out, 10 percent will be divided among the 15,000 nonresidents who applied. The number of available permits was reduced from 4,085 because of the impact on the moose population of winter ticks.



last week shows South Dakota has the highest rate of high school-aged teens who admit to texting and driving.

The report released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says about 61 percent of teen drivers in South Dakota text and drive or send emails while driving. KIDL-TV in Sioux Falls reported that the national average is about 41 percent.

North Dakota was the second-highest state with about 59 percent of teens admitting to texting while driving.

From wire reports

FACES

How many songwriters does it take?

CRAFTING A HIT

BY MESFIN FEKADU

The Associated Press

How many people does it take to write a hit song? If you're Pharrell, one. If you're Pitbull or Jason Derulo, probably eight — or more.

Billboard's recent Hot 100 chart reflects a group of hits mainly showcasing songs written solely by an act and an additional songwriter or those with seven or eight songwriters, such as Pitbull's "Timber" or Jason Derulo's "Wiggle."

What does it take to craft a hit? Who gets the credit? Is a song written by nearly a dozen people less special than a song with only two or three co-writers?

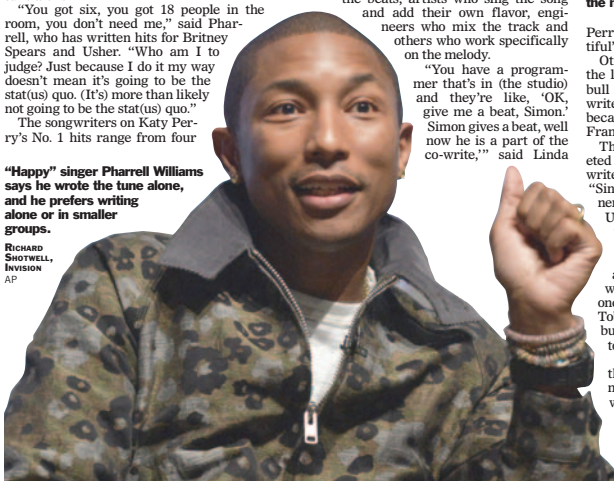
Pharrell, who has the longest-running No. 1 song so far this year with "Happy," wrote the tune alone.

"You got six, you got 18 people in the room, you don't need me," said Pharrell, who has written hits for Britney Spears and Usher. "Who am I to judge? Just because I do it my way doesn't mean it's going to be the status(us) quo. (It's) more than likely not going to be the status(us) quo."

The songwriters on Katy Perry's No. 1 hits range from four

"Happy" singer Pharrell Williams says he wrote the tune alone, and he prefers writing alone or in smaller groups.

RICHAUD SHOTWELL, INVISION AP



("E.T.") to six ("Dark Horse"). Beyonce and Jay Z's latest smash, "Drunk in Love," lists eight collaborators.

That's in contrast to Lorde's "Royals" and OneRepublic's "Counting Stars" — solely written by Ryan Tedder — to any of the successes from Imagine Dragons' debut album, which credits the four members and occasionally producer Alex da Kid.

"I don't think that there'll probably ever be a time, to be honest with you, that we would sit down with like six songwriters and be like, 'Write an Imagine Dragons song.' It just wouldn't feel right for us," said bandleader Dan Reynolds.

Some of today's hits with a list of songwriters that scroll on and on include others who don't physically write lyrics. Writing credit can also be earned by producers who design the beats, artists who sing the song and add their own flavor, engineers who mix the track and others who work specifically on the melody.

"You have a programmer that's in (the studio) and they're like, 'OK, give me a beat, Simon.' Simon gives a beat, well now he is a part of the co-write," said Linda



AP photos

Some singers, such as Jason Derulo, left, tend to have large teams of songwriters craft their tunes. John Legend, right, who writes alone or with a smaller team, says a long list of credits might be offputting to those not in the music industry.

Perry, who wrote Christina Aguilera's "Beautiful" and hits for Pink.

Other times, sampling older songs adds to the lengthy list of credited songwriters. Pitbull and Kesh's "Timber" lists eight songwriters, but technically the total would be 11 because it borrows from Lee Oskar's "San Francisco Bay."

The largest group of writers to win the coveted Grammy for song of the year — a songwriter's award — is four, including Beyonce's "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)." Other winners with four songwriters include songs by U2, Coldplay, the Dixie Chicks and fun., where band members count for all or most of the writers.

John Legend, who has dominated the airwaves this year with "All of Me," said winning the song-of-the-year Grammy was one of his top goals. He wrote the song with Toby Gad, and said that within the music business, the long list of songwriters isn't too shocking.

"But if I were a lay person looking at the credits and I saw six people writing it, it might turn me off a little bit because you would think it's writing by committee or it doesn't feel as personal," Legend said. "But then when you understand who's involved and how they are involved, you understand it a little bit more."

Davies, Donovan inducted into Songwriters Hall

The Associated Press

A death in Ray Davies' family didn't allow the singer to attend the Songwriters Hall of Fame on Thursday, but Jon Bon Jovi closed the three-hour event by performing Kinks hits such as "You Really Got Me" and "All Day and All of the Night."

Davies, who was dealing with his sister's death, accepted the honor in a video, saying he was proud to be part of the 2014 class that included Donovan as well as songwriters Jim Weatherly, Graham Goldman and Mark James.

Rosanne Cash played double duty at the ceremony in New York City. She sang her father's "I Still Miss Someone" to honor BMI President Del Bryant — where she grew emotional — and she performed "Catch the Wind" with Donovan following his induction.

"American Idol" champ Candice Glover sang an impressive version of "Midnight Train to Georgia," one of many songs Weatherly wrote.

A Great Big World, the duo behind the recent Christina Aguilera-assisted hit "Say Something," performed 10cc's "I'm Not in Love" to pay tribute to Gouldman, the English songwriter who wrote the Yardbirds' "For Your Love" and the Hollies' "Bus Stop." Martina McBride performed "Suspicious Minds," a No. 1 Elvis Presley hit James wrote.

Grammy-winning R&B singer Miguel gave a show-stopping performance of "Me and Mrs. Jones," written by Gamble & Huff, who received the Johnny Mercer award, the night's top prize.

Checker to Rock Hall: Induct me soon, or 'drop dead'

The Associated Press

Chubby Checker wants the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame to know it's time to induct him into its exclusive club before it's too late.

"I don't want to get in there when I'm 85 years old. I'll tell them to drop dead, you see better do it quick while I'm still smiling," Checker said Thursday.

Checker's recording of "The Twist," and subsequent "Let's Twist Again," are considered among the most popular songs in the history of rock 'n' roll.

"Let's Twist Again" was the first rock 'n' roll song that received a Grammy (in 1962)," Checker said.

The 72-year-old recording artist equates a place in the Cleveland-based hall to the ability to sustain his career.

"If you put me in when I'm too old to make a living, then it's no good for me to be in there."



Checker

He added: "The Rolling Stones, they're in there. The Beastie Boys are in there, they're young. Hall and Oates were just in there, and they're still making money."

He made the comments on the red carpet for the annual Songwriters Hall of Fame gala in New York where Checker performed "Let's Twist Again" for the ASCAP Centennial celebration.

At the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony in April, Daryl Hall mentioned that Hall and Oates was the first Philadelphia-based band to be in-

ducted. After mentioning Chubby Checker, he said: "Why isn't he in?"

He's not alone. Before going into the ceremony, legendary songwriter Kenny Gamble — of the songwriting team Gamble and Huff — said he feels Checker is long overdue.

"I think Chubby Checker should be in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He's the only person I know to have the same song go to No. 1 twice."

Ford injures ankle on set of 'Star Wars'

Harrison Ford was hospitalized after being injured on the set of "Star Wars: Episode VII."

Disney said the 71-year-old actor was being treated for an ankle injury that happened during filming Thursday. The "Star

Wars" sequel is being filmed at Pinewood Studios near London.

The accident wasn't a stunt sequence, but involved the door of a spacecraft from the film.

The Millennium Falcon, which Ford's Han Solo piloted in the first "Star Wars" trilogy, was recently disclosed as part of "Episode VII."

Disney said shooting will continue as planned while Ford recuperates.

Other news

■ **Matt Lauer**, a fixture on NBC's "Today" show for two decades and a co-host since 1997, will remain on the show for a few more years. The network said Friday that Lauer had agreed to a contract extension for multiple years, although it would not specify how long.

■ **Neil Patrick Harris** will leave hit Broadway show "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," and Andrew Rannells will slip into his wigs. Producers of the Tony Award-winning show said Thursday that Harris will play his final performance on Aug. 17. Rannells will take over Aug. 20.

■ **Jonny Lee Miller** will make his Broadway debut later this year with a work by a playwright he's come to admire. The Manhattan Theatre Club said Thursday the "Brokeback Mountain" star will appear in Nick Payne's "Constellations," which has been a hit in London. Previews begin Dec. 16.

■ **The Los Angeles County** district attorney's office has declined to file a felony charge against pop star Justin Bieber in an alleged tussle with a woman over a cellphone at a family entertainment center.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Priceline buys OpenTable for \$2.6B

By ANNE D'INNOCENZO
AND JOSEPH PISANI
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Priceline has negotiated a \$2.6 billion entree into the restaurant business.

The global travel booking king announced Friday it is acquiring OpenTable Inc. in a deal that would put Priceline into a new business doing for restaurant reservations much what it does for hotel bookings.

The deal should give Priceline a new way to cater to its increasingly mobile-savvy customers, while parlaying Priceline's global reach to expand OpenTable to other countries.

"Travelers are diners," Priceline Group CEO and President Darren Huston said on a conference call. "It's the same customers. There's the opportunity to cross-promote brands."

In a statement, OpenTable CEO Matt Roberts cited Priceline's expertise in online marketing globally on all types of devices.

"They have an exceptional track record of customer service in dozens of languages around the world," Roberts said.

Priceline will pay \$103 per share, which is a 46 percent premium to OpenTable's Thursday closing price of \$70.43.

Shares of OpenTable soared \$34.05, or more than 48 percent, to close at \$104.48 Friday. Priceline shares fell \$36.70, or 3 percent, to \$1,189.30.

Priceline, which generated sales of \$6.8 billion last year, has made a series of acquisitions over the last decade, most recently last year's purchase of Kayak.com, an online travel site. The acquisitions focused on travel — until now.

During the conference call Friday, Huston noted the latest deal doesn't signal it's going on any acquisition binges. In fact, Priceline's main business is still growing well, he said. But he noted OpenTable offers an opportunity to increase the size of its market.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Huston said the

company has seen OpenTable as an acquisition target for many years. The time was right now.

OpenTable seats more than 15 million diners per month at more than 31,000 restaurants. It allows users to make reservations at restaurants through its website and mobile apps. It makes money by charging restaurants fees for the bookings. Users can also read reviews and view menus through the website or mobile app.

OpenTable, founded in 1998, has enjoyed double-digit growth for the past several years and generated revenue of \$190 million last year. That's up 18 percent from the year before and more than triple its 2008 revenue of \$55.8 million. In 2010, it purchased toptable.co.uk, a similar site in the United Kingdom.

OpenTable will remain headquartered in San Francisco and will operate as an independent business led by its current management team.

Huston said Priceline's first goal is to expand OpenTable in-

ternationally. Users can already book restaurants in London, Berlin, Hong Kong and other cities, but Huston said it is seeking to add more cities. Because Priceline already has "offices in every major city in this world," doing so should be seamless, he said.

OpenTable also is working on making it easier to sign up new restaurants to its service, Huston said. The company is creating a cloud-based system instead of using the hardware now used by restaurants to install to use OpenTable.

At Priceline, an average of more than 1 million guests stay in accommodations booked through one of its brands each night. Its brands include Booking.com, priceline.com, agoda.com, and rentals.com and it has relationships with more than 480,000 properties in more than 200 countries and territories worldwide.

Both boards of Priceline and OpenTable unanimously approved the deal, which is targeted to close in the third quarter.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (June 16)	\$1.3966
Dollar buys (June 16)	€0.7191
British pound (\$1)	\$1.74
Japanese yen (June 16)	100.00
South Korean won (June 16)	993.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6953/£.5899
Canada (dollar)	1.0860
China (Yuan)	6.2095
Denmark (Krone)	5.6889
Egypt (Pound)	7.1525
Euro	\$1.3540/€.7368
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7515
Hungary (Forint)	226.48
Israel (Shekel)	3.4548
Japan (Yen)	100.00
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2821
Norway (Krone)	6.0001
Philippines (Peso)	43.88
Poland (Zloty)	3.4044
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2505
South Korea (Won)	1,020.99
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8994
Taiwan (Dollar)	32.41
Turkey (New Lira)	2,123.99

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands, etc.), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
3-month bill	0.08
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.04
30-year bond	3.41

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Monday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Tex	93	73	Cldy	Chatanooga	91	68	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	85	68	Cldy	Louisville	88	71	Pcldy
Akron, Ohio	84	64	Rain	Cheyenne	81	47	Pcldy	Fresno	90	62	Cir	Lubbock	94	70	Pcldy
Albany, N.Y.	86	53	Cir	Chicago	88	67	Pcldy	Goodland	94	63	Cir	Macon	92	68	Pcldy
Albuquerque	90	62	Cir	Cincinnati	88	67	Cldy	Grand Junction	88	56	Cir	Medford	72	50	Pcldy
Allentown, Pa.	87	54	Cldy	Cleveland	84	65	Cldy	Great Falls	83	65	Pcldy	Memphis	91	72	Pcldy
Amarillo	86	54	Cldy	Colorado Springs	82	52	Cir	Green Bay	82	60	Cir	Miami Beach	88	77	Pcldy
Anchorage	61	49	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	82	69	Pcldy	Greensboro, N.C.	91	67	Cir	Midland-Odessa	97	73	Pcldy
Asheville	83	62	Pcldy	Columbus, Ga.	88	66	Rain	Hartford Spfld	87	59	Pcldy	Milwaukee	82	64	Pcldy
Atlanta	90	69	Pcldy	Concord, N.H.	83	50	Cir	Helena	63	45	Rain	Minneapolis	59	44	Rain
Atlantic City	85	58	Cir	Cornwall, N.Y.	94	78	Pcldy	Honolulu	87	74	Pcldy	Missoula	59	44	Rain
Austin	88	59	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	91	75	Cldy	Houston	91	77	Cldy	Montgomery	91	69	Pcldy
Baltimore	90	61	Pcldy	Dayton	85	66	Cldy	Huntsville	90	69	Pcldy	Nashville	92	68	Pcldy
Baton Rouge	91	72	Cldy	Daytona Beach	89	72	Cldy	Indianapolis	88	68	Cldy	New Orleans	90	75	Pcldy
Bilings	74	50	Cldy	Denver	85	53	Cldy	Jackson, Miss.	92	70	Pcldy	New York City	82	62	Cir
Birmingham	88	70	Pcldy	Des Moines	88	64	Pcldy	Jacksonville	89	71	Cldy	Newark	84	63	Cir
Bismarck	78	47	Pcldy	Detroit	85	67	Cldy	Janeau	63	45	Pcldy	Norfolk, Va.	88	67	Cir
Boise	67	48	Cldy	Duluth	78	51	Pcldy	Kansas City	88	67	Pcldy	North Platte	91	56	Pcldy
Boston	80	59	Cldy	El Paso	97	78	Cldy	Kearney	89	80	Cldy	Oaklahoma City	82	71	Pcldy
Bridgeport	80	59	Cldy	Elkins	84	56	Cldy	Knoxville	90	67	Pcldy	Omaha	87	63	Cldy
Brownsville	83	59	Pcldy	Erie	83	62	Cldy	Lake Charles	89	76	Cldy	Orlando	92	73	Cldy
Buffalo	83	58	Rain	Eugene	64	46	Cldy	Lakeview	87	67	Cldy	Pasadena	90	72	Pcldy
Burlington, Vt.	85	51	Cir	Evansville	85	64	Pcldy	Las Vegas	96	74	Cir	Pendleton	97	73	Pcldy
Caribou, Maine	77	47	Cldy	Fairbanks	71	50	Cldy	Lexington	87	69	Pcldy	Philadelphia	88	63	Cir
Carrollton, Tex.	80	45	Pcldy	Fargo	79	53	Pcldy	Lincoln	88	63	Cir	Phoenix	104	77	Pcldy
Charleston, S.C.	89	70	Pcldy	Flagstaff	77	41	Cir	Little Rock	90	71	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	84	61	Cldy
Charleston, W.Va.	87	63	Pcldy	Flint	85	66	Cldy	Los Angeles	73	61	Pcldy				
Charlotte, N.C.	90	68	Pcldy	Fort Smith	91	72	Pcldy								

National temperature extremes
Hi: Sat., 106, Thermal, Calif. and Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Sat., 28, Lakeview, Ore.

Stripes

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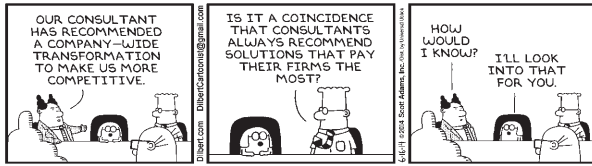
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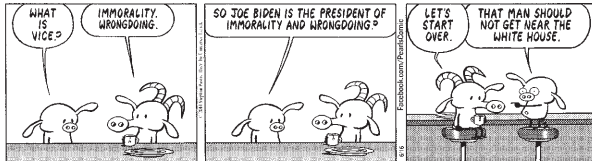
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Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



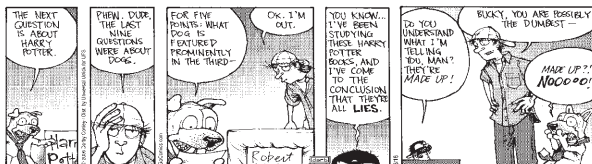
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



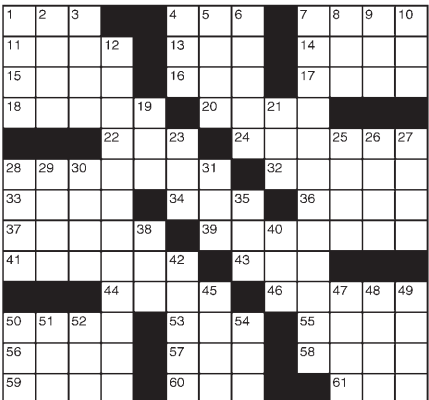
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



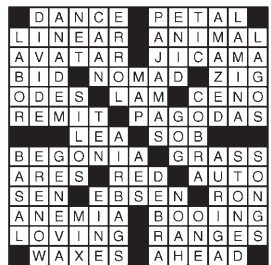
ACROSS

- 1 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
- 4 Emoter on stage
- 7 "Oh, woe!"
- 11 Arizona tribe
- 13 Mrs. McKinley
- 14 Cougar kin
- 15 "— a Kick Out of You"
- 16 Mahal lead-in
- 17 Sport shirt brand
- 18 Code name?
- 20 Double agent
- 22 Tarzan's creator's monogram
- 24 Jennifer's "Friends" role
- 28 Not merely odd
- 32 Use a loom
- 33 Eye part
- 34 Pismire
- 36 Raw metals
- 37 Skater Harding
- 39 Varies
- 41 Put in a box, e.g.
- 43 Snapshot
- 44 Late-braking development?
- 46 "Green Acres" actress
- 50 On
- 53 Pooch
- 55 Gambling game
- 56 City near Sacramento
- 57 First name of 46-Across
- 58 Historic times
- 59 Gratis

DOWN

- 1 Start of a "Mary Poppins" song
- 2 Comic strip possum
- 3 Mimic
- 4 Smack
- 5 First person
- 6 Main course of study
- 7 Something easy
- 8 Light (Sp.)
- 9 Caesar's "I love"
- 10 Depressed
- 12 Statement re 7-Down?
- 19 Blunder
- 21 Legislation
- 23 Foundation garment
- 25 Tortoise's opponent
- 26 Always
- 27 Not as much
- 28 Chomp
- 29 Press
- 30 Galvanization material
- 31 Conclude
- 35 Gratitude
- 38 Request
- 40 — Newtons
- 42 Duck down
- 45 Peace symbol
- 47 Swiss city
- 48 — even keel
- 49 American Beauty, for one
- 50 TV alien
- 51 Rocky pinnacle
- 52 Rhythmic tribute
- 54 Wander

Answer to Previous Puzzle



6-16

CRYPTOQUIP

IMCQ ZH MUEWCS HMBMOCS
SCYQMP YUZ OMHJGMB IUM
TOETMG ZH UZSSCPBMOG:

IUM J P-BJIWU-CTSMG.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF EACH MAIN DIVISION OF NEW YORK CITY HAD AN ANIMAL LEADER, WOULD THEY BE THE FIVE BURROS?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals F

Kings celebrate 2nd Cup, plot run for 3rd

Addition of Gaborik, core players in their prime have LA poised for a burgeoning dynasty

What's more, they've built a

The Kings have an enviable leadership tandem in general manager Dean Lombardi and



Veteran defensemen Matt Greene and Willie Mitchell are unrestricted free agents, and Dwight King is a restricted free agent. The biggest question mark

The 32-year-old Slovak winger showed he's still an elite goal scorer who likely could command a hefty new contract. But after 13 seasons under the microscope of enormous expectations in Minnesota, New York and Columbus, Gaborik seemed grateful to take a complementary role with the Kings — and he loves living in sunny Los Angeles.

The Kings also must evaluate center Mike Richards, whose offensive production has declined

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WORLD CUP

GROUP H

Players to watch



Belgium

Vincent Kompany: If anyone epitomizes the revival of Belgian football, it is central defender Kompany.

Kompany was a prodigy at 17 with Anderlecht and in 2012 he was the rock on which Manchester City built its first Premier League championship in 44 years.

Now 28, he continues to be the anchor for one of the richest teams in one of the world's toughest leagues after he captained City to a second title in three years.

Beyond his positioning and physical prowess, Kompany is best known for his leadership qualities, earning him the undisputed captaincy of the Belgian national team.

Thibaut Courtois: Outplay Belgium and there still remains one massive problem for any team — how to get past goalkeeper Courtois.

Like so many Belgians, he looked abroad from an early age and left Racing Genk for Chelsea, which almost immediately sent him on to Atletico Madrid.

Courtois won the Europa League as a teenager, the Copa del Rey over Real Madrid last season, and La Liga this season. He also helped his team reach the Champions League final, where it lost to Real. He faces some of the world's best strikers on a weekly basis to hone his skills.

At 22, the towering goalkeeper with an immense reach is already one of the best in the world.

Belgium goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois



Russia

Igor Akinfeev: CSKA Moscow goalkeeper Akinfeev made his debut for Russia when he was only 18 years old — the youngest newcomer to the national squad. He has been Russia's top goalkeeper since 2005.

Akinfeev's father brought him to the CSKA football school when he was 4 and he has never switched to another club after making his professional debut in 2003.

Sergei Ignashevich: A stalwart of the Russia and CSKA Moscow defense, Ignashevich missed the 2006 World Cup debut in 2002 against Sweden.

Ignashevich missed the 2004 European Championship because of injury but played in four of the five matches at Euro 2008, when Russia made the semifinals.

He played in all 10 qualifying matches for the World Cup in Brazil.



Russia goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev

Ivan Sekretarev/AP



Fabio Capello, center, the Italian coach of Russia's national team, talks to his players during a training session in Itu, Brazil, on Friday. Capello is confident his team can reach the second round of the World Cup.

Ivan Sekretarev/AP

Don't count them out

Teams out to prove their group isn't irrelevant

BY RAF CASERT

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — With Belgium, Russia, South Korea and Algeria, don't expect too much pre-World Cup hype from Group H. Look closely, though, and you won't kiss it off as irrelevant.

Here are five things to know about Group H at the World Cup:

1 Why watch? Group H might lack the appeal of teams like Brazil and Germany and stars such as Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, but with Belgium players Vincent Kompany and Eden Hazard, and Russia coach Fabio Capello, the group shouldn't be disregarded.

"We are in a complicated group," said Algeria midfielder Mehdi Mostefa, knowing he has to face both the unbridled individual talent of Belgium and the defensive teamwork of South Korea in the first round.

2 What makes Russia tick? Russia will organize the next World Cup, has financial clout and has attracted some of the best coaches in the world to rekindle the glory days of its 1960 European Nations Cup success, when the Soviet Union won the inaugural continental competition.

Dutch coaches Guus Hiddink and Dick Advocaat came and went, both stopping short of the full international recognition Russia craved. Somehow, a nation of 142 million people with a long football tradition finds it incredibly tough to be a contender.

Now it is up to Fabio Capello. The Italian coach got Russia to Brazil by winning a group which included Portugal, and that has given him enough confidence to keep his eye on the second round.

Beyond the group opponents, Capello was more than pleased to see that all three of his matches would be played in temperate conditions in the south, keeping his players fit for later in the tournament.

"We are also happy about the fact that we are not playing in the northern part of the country," Capello said. "That's very

important to us."

3 Belgium's back: Like Fabio Capello, Belgium coach Marc Wilmots is also already looking beyond the first round.

The Red Devils might still be too young to reap the rewards of their talent, but there will be no waiting once they get to Brazil.

Perhaps the most exciting player of the group is Eden Hazard. The Chelsea playmaker has seen his stock rise during a standout season with Chelsea and an easy first-round group can do wonders for a player looking for recognition on the biggest stage.

Belgium starts out against Algeria and a solid performance against a team which likely will throw everything back in defense could quickly turn Hazard into a big name, with momentum going his way.

4 The outsiders: Losing the first game to Belgium is not exactly how the Algerians see their World Cup. Four years ago, they held England to a scoreless draw but still went out in the group stage. Looking further back, 1982 should provide even more inspiration.

Algeria beat West Germany in its opening World Cup game, but a controversial result later in the round contrived to eliminate the north Africans. The bitterness of that experience remains, and every Algerian fan knows the team is still out for revenge.

5 After easy comes difficult: Even if Group H seems easy, the rest of the way in the tournament will be anything but.

After the group matches, the road will lead to the top teams from Group G, arguably the toughest of the tournament. And if Germany advances as expected, any of the other group teams — Portugal, Ghana and the United States — will also be a tough opponent in the round of 16.

Players to watch



South Korea

Son Heung-min: Potentially South Korea's game changer, forward Son is ready to prove himself after making his name in the Bundesliga.

Transferred to Bayer Leverkusen last July for \$14 million after three seasons at Hamburg, the 21-year-old Son has not been consistently excellent for his new team but when he has played well, he's played very well.

Son is a striker who likes to use his pace to sprint past defenders from deep and then shoot from distance. He tends to score in streaks. And if he can get into groove in Brazil, South Korea will possess a powerful weapon.

Not always used well in the past for the national team, Son has started to find his form under coach Hong Myung-bo.

Ki Sung-yeung: Sunderland playmaker Ki controls the tempo of the South Korean team, and after an impressive season for his club he is now regarded as one of the best players in the Premier League.

Still only 25 but with 56 international appearances, Ki is approaching his peak and rarely gives the ball away.

The issue for coach Hong Myung-bo is whether to keep Ki deep, where he is a valuable outlet for defenders, or push him up the field where his passing can unlock backlines.



Son Heung-min

Lee Jin-man/AP



Algeria

Sofiane Feghouli: Feghouli is Algeria's most skillful player and has proven himself in Spain over the past few seasons with Valencia.

The 24-year-old winger played for France's under-21 side and was even close to a call up for the senior team before pledging his allegiance to Algeria. Coach Vahid Halilhodzic gave him his international debut three years ago.

The Parisian-born Feghouli, who has scored five goals in 17 international appearances, has everything to trouble defenders: pace, skill, passing and an eye for goal. But he has also been plagued by inconsistency.

Madjid Bougherra: Captain Bougherra has been a mainstay in central defense over the past 10 years.

One of his best performance's for the Greens was against England at the last World Cup, where he kept striker Wayne Rooney at bay as Algeria secured a scoreless draw.

The 31-year-old Bougherra has played more than 60 times for his country, but the rugged defender's club career has been more successful. He won three straight league titles with Scottish club Rangers and was a fan favorite before being sold to Lekhwiya, where he scored on his debut and won the Qatar Stars League in his first season.

Madjid Bougherra

Darko Bantic/AP



Lamouchi said it wasn't easy for him to leave Droghda on the bench from the start, but credited Droghda for the way he handled the decision.

"To see the joy he experienced at the end of the match ... I am convinced he's a champion and we need him," Lamouchi said.

WORLD CUP

Balotelli's goal sends Italy past England

By CHRIS LEHOURLITES
The Associated Press

MANAUS, Brazil — The heat and humidity of the jungle made its mark on the first World Cup match to be played in the Amazon rainforest, and so did Mario Balotelli.

With players from both sides slowing as the game wore on, it was the man with the mohawk that headed in the deciding goal early in the second half to give Italy a 2-1 win over England and a decided advantage in Group D.

"We won, but now let's keep our feet on the ground, otherwise we're not going anywhere," said Balotelli, an often volatile and often brilliant striker who was nearly dropped from the starting lineup after struggling for AC Milan this season.

Balotelli was left unmarked at the far post in the 50th minute, giving him plenty of space to head a cross from Antonio Candreva past goalkeeper Joe Hart for the winning goal.

The match was played in the Amazonian city of Manaus, the most exotic of the 12 World Cup venues for this year's tournament. According to FIFA, it was 86 degrees with humidity at 61 percent for the match.

"At times it felt like having lightning above the head," Italy midfielder Claudio Marchisio said.

Marchisio gave the four-time champions the lead with a long shot through a crowded area and past a diving Hart in the 35th minute. Daniel Sturridge equalized for England two minutes later,



MARCIO JOSÉ SANCHEZ/AP

Italy's Mario Balotelli, right, beats England's Gary Cahill to the ball and heads it past goalkeeper Joe Hart, left, to score Italy's second goal during their group D World Cup match on Saturday.

tapping in a cross from Wayne Rooney.

In the other Group D match, Costa Rica beat Uruguay 3-1. So both England and Uruguay, who meet Thursday, have plenty of work to do to advance.

"We all need time to digest what happened on the field," England coach Roy Hodgson said. "My gut feeling is that we did very good things. There were some very good individual performances."

Both teams complained about the heat in Manaus, with Italy coach Cesare Prandelli questioning the decision to not have official

timeouts during play.

"We had to slow down our pace to regain our breaths," Prandelli said. "It was impossible to maintain the intensity."

The choice of Manaus as a World Cup host city has been under scrutiny for years, mainly because of the weather conditions and the lack of a top football team in the city. Besides Saturday's game, there will be three more World Cup matches played in the jungle, including Cameroon vs. Croatia on Wednesday. The United States will then face Portugal in Manaus on June 22 and Honduras will play

Switzerland on June 25.

"This was a very difficult (game) because England are a good team and there was the climate as well," Balotelli said. "We suffered, but then that's typical for Italy. The important thing is to win."

Although he is one of the most talented strikers in soccer, there were some predictions heading into the World Cup that he would be dropped in favor of Ciro Immobile.

Immobile, who plays for Torino, scored a hat trick last weekend in a warm-up match against Brazilian club Fluminense. Prandelli,

however, decided to stick with his main man.

Balotelli was born to Ghanaian immigrants and raised by Italian foster parents, and has often been forced to deal with racist chanting in Italy. However, the abuse hasn't prevented him from becoming a key player for the national team, including scoring two goals in the semifinal win over Germany at the 2012 European Championship.

Balotelli also nearly found the net in first-half injury time, running deep into the area and enticing Italy to come off his line. The Italy striker stopped, looked toward goal and sent a chip over the keeper's head but Phil Jagielka headed the ball over the bar.

England's attack-minded lineup made frequent runs into the Italy area throughout the match, and came close to scoring several times. When Sturridge did score, England team physio Gary Lewin dislocated his ankle while celebrating the goal.

Italy played without the injured Gianluigi Buffon. The 36-year-old goalkeeper, who can play in his fourth World Cup if he is able to recover from an ankle problem, was replaced by Salvatore Sirigu.

The PSG keeper stepped up and made several good saves, but the best may have come in the 77th when he dived to his left to block a free kick from Leighton Baines.

Prandelli praised Sirigu, but hopes Buffon will be back for Friday's game against Costa Rica.

"We tried to have him back for tonight but he wasn't able to," Prandelli said. "Over the next few days we'll try to get him back. But I can't say by when."

Costa Rica upsets Uruguay in Group D

By DEREK GATOPOULOS
The Associated Press

FORTALEZA, Brazil — Costa Rica came from behind to stun Uruguay 3-1 Saturday at the World Cup, opening the tough Group D with a major upset.

Costa Rica entered the tournament as one of the biggest underdogs to make it out of the group stage after being drawn with Uruguay, Italy and England, but showed no signs of being in awe as it scored three goals in the second half to seriously dent the South Americans' hopes of advancing.

Uruguay had to leave star striker Luis Suarez on the bench but went ahead when Edinson Cavani scored a penalty in the 24th minute.

However, Costa Rica fought back after the break and lone striker Joel Campbell drove in a ball headed down by Celso Borges in the 54th to beat goalkeeper Fernando Muslera.

Oscar Duarte dived past the outstretched foot of Uruguayan Cristian Stuani to head in the winner for the Central Americans,

and substitute Marcos Ureña added the third with six minutes left, catching Muslera out to slot the ball in from a tight angle.

It was Costa Rica's first World Cup victory since beating China in the group stage in 2002.

"What counted is that we stayed calm and kept creating opportunities against a very tough team," Costa Rica coach Jorge Luis Pinto said. "We have great respect for Uruguay but we weren't that impressed tonight and we able to play our game the way we wanted. So it was a big win for us."

Uruguay started with striker Diego Forlan alongside Cavani but the 35-year-old made little impact and was replaced by Nicolas Lodeiro.

Uruguay — the highest-ranked team in the group — ended its disastrous night with 10 men after Maxi Pereira was sent off for a clumsy injury time foul on Campbell. Pereira will be suspended from the next game against England.

"They were simply very good. In the second half they just took over — and they took the tacti-



BERNAT ARMANGUE/AP

Costa Rica's Joel Campbell celebrates his country's 3-1 upset victory over Uruguay in a Group D World Cup match in Fortaleza, Brazil on Saturday.

cal advantage," Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez said. "Football means that sometimes you have to lose. You can't lose heart, you just have to improve ... We made mistakes today that we haven't made for a long time."

Suarez is still recovering from knee surgery and never came off the bench — indicating that the Liverpool forward is still far from match fitness.

Colombia makes return with win over Greece

By FRANK GRITTFITHS
The Associated Press

BELO HORIZONTE, Brazil — Colombia started its first World Cup campaign in 16 years in dazzling fashion, beating Greece 3-0 to open Group C on Saturday in front of a big, loud pro-Colombian crowd.

Left back Pablo Armero opened the scoring in the fifth minute when his deflected shot rolled past Greece goalkeeper Orestis Karamis. Striker Teofilo Gutierrez poked in Colombia's second goal from a deflected corner in the 58th and James Rodriguez capped it off with a low shot in stoppage time after a slick backheel flick from Juan Cuadrado.

Colombia's pace and trickery were too much for Greece to handle in the latter stages as the 57,174 crowd, most dressed in bright yellow shirts, constantly chanted "Ole, ole" at Estadio Minierio.

"It was a good debut with players who had never played a World Cup. It's a big satisfaction," Colombia coach Jose Pekerman said. "This is how we planned this match. Some things turned out the way we wanted, some things

didn't, but we were very focused and showed that we're here to play a good World Cup."

Rodriguez said the win showed Colombia was on the right path.

"It's a good start, but we have to be calm for what's ahead, which will be even more difficult," he said, looking ahead at Group C matches against Ivory Coast and Japan.

Greece had the majority of possession with 54 percent, but whenever Colombia players got hold of the ball, they blazed down the flanks and through the middle of the pitch, disorientating their opponents.

The Greeks had a chance to pull a goal back after Gutierrez scored, but an unmarked Georgios Samaras rattled the crossbar from two yards out.

Colombia's chances were, too. Panagiotis Kone's shot went just wide in the first half. Colombia goalkeeper David Ospina then made an outstanding save to deny Kone just before halftime.

"You can't make excuses when you lose 3-0," Greece coach Fernando Santos said. "We had good spells of play and all we can do now is look at the next matches."

WORLD CUP



JULIO CORTES/AP

Fabian Johnson celebrates after scoring a goal against Turkey in the first half of an international friendly in Harrison, N.J. Johnson is one of five German-Americans on the American roster for the World Cup.

Strong German presence on United States squad

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

SAO PAULO — Timmy Chandler says the melting pot of the U.S. soccer team speaks the same language.

"We understand everything good: English, German, Mexican, Chinese," the defender explained.

But, ja, German is a plus on this year's American World Cup team.

Chandler is among five German-Americans on the 23-man roster, the sons of American servicemen and German mothers. A sixth was among the final cuts, and another three members of the player pool weren't even invited to the 30-man training camp last month in California.

All speak decent English, some more accented than others. Thomas Dooley said that puts them far ahead of where he was when he joined the U.S. team

in 1992, 5½ weeks after picking up his U.S. passport. The tall defender started all four American games at the 1994 World Cup and was captain in 1998.

"I had no connection to the U.S. at all, and that's what made it the most difficult part for me, to communicate with the group," said Dooley, who retired to Laguna Niguel, California, and is now coach of the national team of the Philippines.

Right back Fabian Johnson and midfielder Jermaine Jones, barring injuries, are sure to start against Ghana in the Americans' World Cup opener Monday. Chandler is competing with DaMarcus Beasley for the left back spot, while John Brooks is a backup central defender, and 19-year-old Julian Green a reserve winger.

All are looking forward to the Americans' first-round finale on June 26 against — of course — Germany.



AP Photo

United States national team soccer players John Brooks, Fabian Johnson, Timothy Chandler, Jermaine Jones and Julian Green, from left, are all German-Americans, the sons of American servicemen and German mothers.

Point: US men have never advanced after losing group opener

FROM BACK PAGE

Twenty-four years ago, when the Americans returned to the World Cup after a 40-year absence, midfielder Tab Ramos put charts up at the U.S. team's training camp in Italy trying to figure out the odds of advancing. Ramos is now an assistant coach, and in the computer age tons of data are readily available.

Since the World Cup went to a 32-team format in 1998, 85 percent of teams that won their first games and to 9 percent for those that started with losses.

And the quality of opponent figures to get only more difficult for the U.S. After playing the 37th-ranked Black Stars, the Americans face No. 4 Portugal and close the first round against second-ranked Germany.

"If we can get the win, then we can refocus and go for Portugal," goalkeeper Tim Howard said. "There's no sense in looking beyond the first game. It's important, I think, that we can get three points in the bag."

Ghana knocked the Americans out of the last two World Cups with 2-1 victories, beating the Americans in group play in the 2006 tournament and in extra time during the round of 16 four years ago. The Black Stars failed in their bid to become the first African semifinalist, losing to Uruguay in a shootout after Luis Suarez used his hands to block what would have been a go-ahead goal in extra time, and Asamoah Gyan sent his penalty kick clanking off the crossbar.

Only four Americans who appeared in the 2010 match are likely to start: Howard, Bradley and forwards Clint Dempsey and Jozy Altidore. Based on their starting lineup in Monday's 4-0 exhibition win over South Korea, Ghana could return defender Jonathan Mensah, midfielders Kwadwo Asamoah and Andre Ayew, and forwards Kevin-Prince Boateng and Gyan.

"It's a team full of individual talent with players, certain players that can hurt you in a split second if you're not alert, if you're not awake," Klinsmann said.



AP Photo

'There's no sense in looking beyond the first game. It's important, I think, that we can get three points in the bag.'

Tim Howard
United States goalkeeper

After training for four days in the temperate late-summer weather of Sao Paulo, the Americans traveled northeast Friday to Natal, a tropical beach city just 400 miles from the equator. They were to work out Saturday at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte, then again Sunday at the Arena das Dunas, a Populus-designed stadium whose outside structure with 20 curving segments emulates the local sand dunes.

Mexico's 1-0 win over Cameroon in Natal on Friday was played in a downpour, and it rained again Saturday. The forecast called for more heavy rain Sunday and clearing Monday with the possibility of occasional showers.

"For us everything is ideal," Klinsmann said. "Whatever the temperature is, whatever the conditions are — rain, no rain, hot, humid, whatever — we are prepared."

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MLB

Rockies score twice in ninth, stun Giants

Romo blows save as San Francisco suffers fifth loss in six games

By MICHAEL WAGAMAN
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Brandon Barnes isn't a classic power hitter. In fact, neither of the Colorado right fielder's two home runs this season even left the park.

They did help the Rockies to victories, however, and for that Barnes isn't making any apologies.

Barnes hit a two-run, inside-the-park home run in the ninth inning and Colorado rallied for the second straight day to stun the San Francisco Giants 5-4 on Saturday.

"I'd really like to hit one out so I can jog around the bases to make it easier," said Barnes, who hit his first inside-the-park home run against Arizona on June 5. "I always seem to make it hard on myself. I hit the ball and I'm going to run hard until something stops me."

Charlie Blackmon singled with two outs off Giants closer Sergio Romo (3-3) before Barnes lined a hit to center field. San Francisco's Angel Pagan misplayed the ball and it skipped to the fence as Blackmon and Barnes raced around the bases.

Barnes, who had a walkoff triple to beat the Dodgers on June 7, had flown out to center in three consecutive at-bats before helping Colorado extend its winning streak to four games.

"My father made the trip up from Anaheim for Fathers' day tomorrow and my step-mom and sister were here," Barnes said. "It's special to play in front of them, especially like a day like today."

It's the second consecutive blown save and fourth this season for Romo, who gave up five runs in the ninth inning of Friday's 7-4 loss to Colorado.

"I don't feel like I could have done much more there," Romo said. "I had two outs, one pitch away again ... and they found a



JEFF CHIU/AP

Colorado's Brandon Barnes, right, celebrates with Corey Dickerson (6) and Charlie Blackmon (19) after hitting a two-run, inside-the-park home run off Giants pitcher Sergio Romo during the ninth inning Saturday's game in San Francisco.

way to stay alive. They got me again. What can I do?"

Buster Posey's sacrifice fly in the seventh inning had given the Giants a 4-3 lead. Posey also doubled and homered to finish with a season-high three RBIs — the most by San Francisco's two-time All-Star in more than 11 months.

Hunter Pence hit his ninth home run of the year while Gregor Blanco had three hits for San Francisco.

It wasn't enough to prevent the Giants'

fifth loss in six games.

Barnes is the fourth opposing player to hit an inside-the-park home run at AT&T Park.

Rex Brothers (3-4) pitched one inning for the win and became the 76th pitcher in history to strike out the side on nine pitches. LaTroy Hawkins worked the ninth for his 13th save, although he had to wait to celebrate.

Angel Pagan appeared to ground into a game-ending double play and several

Rockies players came out of the dugout to celebrate. Kansas City manager Bruce Bochy, who successfully overturned a call earlier in the game, again challenged the ruling. After a brief review, the umpires upheld the original call.

"There was talk about the games here and how crazy they are," Colorado manager Walt Weiss said. "It usually comes down to millimeters and milliseconds. Barnes has a tendency to be in the middle of things. He's been a real clutch player for us."

Roundup

Calhoun's single lifts Angels over Braves in 13th

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Kole Calhoun's bases-loaded single in the 13th inning drove in the go-ahead run and helped Los Angeles to an 11-6 win after blowing a four-run lead in the ninth against Atlanta.

Mike Trout and Albert Pujols each had three hits, including back-to-back homers in the sixth inning, and drove in four runs.

The teams combined to use 16 pitchers in a game that lasted nearly 5 hours.

Athletics 5, Yankees 1: Eric Sogard drove in two runs and threw out a runner at the plate to help host Oakland win a game delayed 38 minutes by a partial power outage.

Cardinals 4, Nationals 1: Matt Adams hit the go-ahead home run for the second straight game, connecting off Stephen Strasburg in host St. Louis' three-run seventh inning, and the Cardinals beat



DAVID TULL/AP

Los Angeles Angels' Albert Pujols hits a solo home run against Atlanta Braves starting pitcher Gavin Floyd during the sixth inning of Saturday's game in Atlanta.

Washington.

Phillies 7, Cubs 4: At Philadelphia, Jimmy Rollins singled in the fifth to pass Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt as the Phillies' hits leader and Dominican Brown capped the inning with a three-run homer.

Dodgers 6, Diamondbacks 4: Dan Haren pitched into the seventh inning and hit a tiebreaking three-run double to lead host Los Angeles.

Rangers 4, Mariners 3: Leonys Martin hit a run-scoring single with two outs in the ninth and visiting Texas extended Seattle's losing streak to five games.

Indians 3, Red Sox 2: Jason Kipnis had three hits and visiting Cleveland rallied for two runs in the seventh inning to snap a four-game losing streak.

Brewers 4, Reds 2: Ryan Braun hit a two-run home run in the eighth inning to lift host Milwaukee to victory.

Royals 9, White Sox 1: Danny

Duffy matched a career high with nine strikeouts and visiting Kansas City extended its winning streak to six games.

Tigers 12, Twins 9: Rookie Eugenio Suarez hit a leadoff homer and a run-scoring double in a seven-run third inning to lead slumping host Detroit to victory.

Orioles 3, Blue Jays 2: Chris Davis homered to back Bud Norris' effective pitching for host Baltimore.

Astros 7, Rays 3: Matt Dominguez broke his slump with two hits that included a three-run double in host Houston's big third inning.

Pirates 3, Marlins 6: Andrew McCutchen hit a three-run homer and Jody Mercer also went deep for visiting Pittsburgh.

Padres 5, Mets 0: Jesse Hahn earned his first big league victory, pitching one-hit ball for six innings and contributing an RBI single to help visiting San Diego end a five-game losing streak.

SPORTS BRIEFS/COLLEGE BASEBALL

Briefly

Logano's mishap enables Menard to win Nationwide

The Associated Press

BROOKLYN, Mich. — Joey Logano was only a few laps away from victory when suddenly, holding off Paul Menard wasn't his main problem.

"I could tell something was wrong on the back straightaway," Logano said.

Logano's flat tire with about five laps remaining allowed Menard to win the NASCAR Nationwide Series race Saturday at Michigan International Speedway. It was Menard's second victory on that circuit and first since 2006, and Logano was left trying to come to terms with a race that was going well until the final moments.

"I hate to give them away like that," Logano said. "You look at the silver lining I guess, which is we had a fast race car and should have won the race. You win some this way and lose some this way."

Logano was leading when he was derailed by the tire problem. Menard took advantage of his good fortune, holding off Sam Hornish Jr. by 0.468 seconds. It was Menard's first Nationwide start of the season.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. finished third, followed by pole-winner Kyle Busch and Brian Scott. Regan Smith finished seventh and remained atop the points list.

Menard, one of several Sprint Cup drivers in contention in the event, won the 250-mile, 125-lap race in his No. 33 Chevrolet. He figures he might have had a shot to win even without Logano's mishap.

"I would have liked to have lined up nose to tail with Joey," he said. "It would have been a hell of a race."

Logano wasn't disputing that, but the point became moot when he ran over something in his No. 22 Ford and dropped all the way back to 16th place because of the cut tire.

"The 33 was quick and had a fast race car also. We were going to have a race because he was catching me a little bit," Logano said. "Sometimes you are the bug, sometimes you are the windshield. It is never over until it is over. You think you are in good shape and you are worried about a caution more than anything else and then the next thing you know you hear it starting to come apart."

Busch won his third Nationwide pole of the year but was unable to repeat his victory two weeks ago at Dover. Scott was the highest finisher among this year's Nationwide regulars, holding his own among several Cup drivers.

Other racing news:

■ Darrell Wallace Jr. raced to his second career NASCAR Camping World Truck victory Saturday night, holding off German Quiroga at Gateway Motorsports Park in Madison, Ill.

Wallace took the lead from Quiroga off a restart with four laps left after Quiroga tangled with Erik Jones, Wallace's Kyle Busch Motorsports teammate. Jones bobbled while leading with seven laps left, and Quiroga slammed into the back of Jones' truck, sending it spinning hard into the inside wall.

"Was wild," Wallace said. "Such a bumper for Erik."

The 20-year-old Wallace, making his 29th series start, won last year at Martinsville to join Wendell Scott as the only black winners on NASCAR's national level.

"We got into a little trouble the first pit stop, but a little adversity never hurts anybody," Wallace said. "We were through it. I'm so proud of my guys, they worked their tails off."

Quiroga, from Mexico, finished a career-high second, while Jones ended up 23rd.

"I got a little free," Jones said. "(Quiroga got) right into the left rear and just turned us around."

Quiroga held his line after Jones bobbled and slowed.

"Everyone got really excited at the end," Quiroga said. "We were defending our position. I saw an opportunity to win my first race and I didn't want to

let it go, so I drove as hard as everyone else. We're getting there, getting closer to a win."

Toyota swept the top four places, with Timothy Peters finishing third and Johnny Sauter fourth. Sauter took the lead in the season standings, moving 10 points ahead of ThorSport Racing teammate Matt Crafton.

Johnson, MacDonald win at UFC 174

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Demetrious Johnson won a unanimous decision against Al Bagautinov to retain his flyweight title at UFC 174 on Saturday night.

Johnson put on a display of speed against the challenger, who scored a couple of takedowns but was never really a threat. The fight was scored 50-45 by all three judges.

In the co-main event, Canadian welterweight Rory MacDonald beat Tyrone Woodley in an impressive unanimous decision in the most exciting bout of the night.

MacDonald was mentored by Georges St-Pierre before the former champion stepped away from the sport late last year.

Johnson almost connected with a spinning kick with under a minute to go in the fifth and final round, but Bagautinov was able to avoid the blow to send the bout to the scorecards.

The 5-foot-3 Johnson (20-2-1) won the UFC's inaugural flyweight title in 2012 and has now successfully defended the 125-pound belt four times.

MacDonald (47-2), who came into his fight as the No. 2 contender in the 170-division, controlled Woodley from the middle of the first round, using his superior reach to keep the two-time All-American wrestler at bay, while also connecting with both kicks and punches.

All three judges scored the fight 30-27 for the 24-year-old MacDonald.

MacDonald took Woodley down 2 minutes into the third and final round and relentlessly pounded the No. 3-ranked welterweight until the bell sounded.

MacDonald's team rushed into the octagon to congratulate their fighter as the crowd roared in approval.

Algieri wins split decision for title

NEW YORK — Chris Algieri won the WBO junior welterweight title, outpointing Ruslan Provodnikov in a split decision Saturday night at Barclays Center.

Algieri (20-0) received winning scores of 114-112 from two judges, with the third judge had it 117-109 for Provodnikov (33-3).

Algieri's nose bled after the fifth round and the former kickboxer's right eye swelled and seemed to hinder his sight late in the fight. He absorbed everything that Provodnikov threw at him and won the fight after getting up twice in a short span during the first round.

Provodnikov lost his first title defense since stopping Mike Alvarado in the 10th round last October and also took for the second time in three fights. His other loss in the last 15 months was a controversial decision against Timothy Bradley.

Federer beats Falla for Weber title

HALLE, Germany — Roger Federer won the Gerry Weber Open for the seventh time by defeating Alejandro Falla 7-6 (2), 7-6 (3) in the final on Sunday.

Federer fired five aces and saved three of the five break points he faced to win in 1 hour, 28 minutes. It was the 14th title on grass and 79th overall for the 32-year-old Swiss.

The seven-time Wimbledon champion improved his record to 46-5 in 12 appearances at the tournament where he made his debut 14 years ago.



DAVE WEAVER/AP

UC Irvine third baseman Taylor Sparks, left, is safe at third with a triple as Texas third baseman Zane Gurvitz waits on the throw in the eighth inning on Saturday in Omaha, Neb. UC Irvine won 3-1.

CWS

Sparks' triple gets UC Irvine going

The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — With the wind blowing in at 35 mph at cavernous TD Ameritrade Park, UC Irvine's Taylor Sparks hit the longest ball all day. It barely reached the warning track.

But with Texas' outfield playing extremely shallow Saturday, his drive to left-center for his nation-leading ninth triple was more than enough to get the Anteaters' offense going in a 3-1 victory over Texas in the opening game of the College World Series.

"The wind was really howling, so I knew anything lifted, it wasn't just going anywhere," Sparks said. "I just tried to stay flat with that and was able to travel through the gap. It's definitely my most special and favorite hit so far."

One of the last four teams selected for the NCAA tournament, UC Irvine (41-23) continued to advance during a postseason run in which it knocked off No. 1 national seed Oregon State and swept a super regional at Oklahoma State.

"By keeping the game close, and with there being no clock in this game, it was possible for us to do what we did in the eighth," Irvine coach Mike Gillespie said. "Taylor Sparks had a spectacular game both on offense and defense. We strung together some hits, so it was a good win for us."

The Anteaters advanced to a winner's game Monday against Vanderbilt, a 5-3 winner over Louisville in the night game. The Longhorns (43-20) play Louisville.

The Anteaters had been shut out for seven innings before they broke through against Texas starter Nathan Thornhill (8-3) and reliever John Curtiss.

Thornhill allowed only three runs in 37 innings in six starts before Adam Alcantara singled and scored on Sparks' triple. It was his third hit of the game.

Curtiss came on, and Chris Rabago drilled his first pitch up the middle to score Sparks. Jonathan Munoz added an RBI single for a two-run lead.

Texas coach Augie Garrido said he didn't regret sending Thornhill out for the eighth after watching the Phillies' 13th-round draft pick pitch a 1-2-3 seventh. "I wouldn't say 'I was tired,'" Thornhill said. "The first hitter turned on fastball inside, and the next guy (Sparks) is their best hitter and he hit a cutter that was down. He sat on it. Great hit."

Vanderbilt 5, Louisville 3: Vanderbilt was happy to get runs any way it could against Louisville.

The Commodores scored their first one on a wild pitch and their last one on a passed ball and Vanderbilt (46-19) won a grinding, 3-hour, 40-minute game to advance to a meeting with UC Irvine on Monday night.

"Any momentum swing in this tournament is a big deal, and ours are tough to come by," Vanderbilt coach Tim Corbin said. "We were fortunate in a lot of ways tonight."

Louisville (50-16) will play Texas in an elimination game in the afternoon.

Dansby Swanson doubled in two runs, and Bryan Reynolds tripled in another and made a fabulous catch in left field to help the Commodores beat Louisville for the first time in four tries.

Carson Fulmer (7-1), who got the start instead of first-round draft pick Tyler Beede, worked six innings for the win.

Louisville pitchers struggled against Vanderbilt's patient batters. Losing pitcher Kyle Funkhouser (13-3) went six innings and issued six of Louisville's nine walks, its third-most of the season. The four runs he allowed matched his career high.

"It's hard to win at the College World Series with a bad start," Funkhouser said, "and that's what we did tonight."

The Commodores' biggest run came on a passed ball after they saw their 4-0 lead shrink to 4-3 in the seventh. It looked like catcher Kyle Gibson was setting up for a pitch-out, but reliever Kyle McGrath pitched to the plate and Gibson let the ball get past him, allowing Vince Conde to score.

US OPEN



CHUCK BURTON/AP

Rickie Fowler earned a spot in the final group at a major for the first time in his career on Saturday in Pinehurst, N.C.

Fowler out to contend for major

By PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

PINEHURST, N.C. — Rickie Fowler has a great sense of fashion. He can work a crowd.

Now, all he needs is a career-defining win.

Fowler earned a spot in the final group of a major for the first time after being one of just two players to break par on a brutal Saturday at Pinehurst No. 2. He shot a 3-under 67, leaving him five shots behind leader Martin Kaymer.

"The main goal going into the year was ... to be ready for the majors and go contend in the majors," Fowler said. "I really wouldn't care less what happened in the other tournaments, just because my main goals were to be ready for the majors."

Since breaking onto the PGA Tour in 2009, Fowler always carried himself like a star. Big endorsement deals. Flamboyant clothing. Long hair. Outside of Phil Mickelson, he might be the most popular guy on the course.

Only one problem: His lone tour victory came at the Quail Hollow two years ago. Otherwise, it's just a bunch of close calls, causing some to question if Fowler is more hype than substance.

Fowler was two shots off the lead going to the final round of the Masters, but a 73 on Sunday knocked him out of contention. He has a more daunting deficit to make up at the U.S. Open.

"I would definitely be very happy at the end of the year," he said, "if I was in contention at all four majors."

Facing a course with firmer greens and devilish pin placements, Fowler managed to make five birdies and limit the damage to a couple of bogeys. He and Erik Compton, who also shot 67, were the only players in the red on Saturday.

"I can put myself in contention with the rest of the group, and see what Martin does," Fowler said. "If he goes out and posts double-digits (under par), it's going to be impossible to catch him. It's like a second tournament going on."

Kaymer protects lead at Pinehurst

German avoids trouble on tough day, escapes with 5-stroke lead

By DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

PINEHURST, N.C. — A tough Pinehurst No. 2 tried to make a game out of this U.S. Open. Martin Kaymer always had an answer.

Already with one bogey on his card, Kaymer's tee shot on No. 4 was so deep into the trees that his golf ball settled in sandy patch that had been washed out by rain, stacked up against 6 inches of pine straw. With nowhere to go and no relief available, he turned to USGA President Tom O'Toole and said, "If you have a way to play it, I'll follow you."

Kaymer navigated his way out of trouble just fine.

He escaped with a bogey by getting up-and-down from 165 yards. He followed with an eagle with a 7-iron from 202 yards out of more sand and weeds. And a birdie on the final hole gave him a 2-over 72 and a five-shot lead in a U.S. Open that finally lived up to its reputation Saturday.

"I kept it very well together," said Kaymer, who was at 8-under 202.

Now he has to do it one more time, with a different cast of challengers behind him.

Rickie Fowler, with teen idol status in American golf, birdied the par-3 17th hole and shot 67 to get into the final group of a major for the first time.

Even more unlikely was the other player at 3-under 207 — Erik Compton, the two-time heart transplant recipient who considers it a victory just to be playing golf. Compton ran off five birdies and an eagle for a 67.

"If I were to win the tournament, it would be obviously something that would be extremely special, not only for me, but for my family and for those who have been around me, and I think also for the community and those who have been through some tough times," Compton said. "I might just sail off and never play golf again."

Even so, this tournament is in the hands of a 29-year-old German who kept his cool on a broiling day of some wicked pin positions.

Only one player in U.S. Open history has lost a five-shot lead

in the final round, and that was Mike Brady in 1919.

"It would be nice if they make it difficult again," Kaymer said of the pins, several of which were on the edges of the Donald Ross turtleback greens. "Because then it's all about ball-striking. I enjoy playing those courses a lot more than just a putting competition. ... So I hope they put them in tough positions. Not as tough as today. It would be nice if we could have some kind of a chance once in a while. But that is what you get at the U.S. Open. It's OK. You just have to play very well."

Only six players remained under par, and considering no one has come from more than seven shots behind in the final round to win a U.S. Open, they might be the only ones left with a realistic chance to catch Kaymer.

Dustin Johnson and Henrik Stenson each shot 70 and were at 2-under 208. Brandt Snedeker had a 72 and was another shot behind.

Asked how much that birdie mattered on the 18th hole, Kaymer said, "One shot."

"If you're four shots, five shots, six shots, if you play a golf course like this, it can be gone very quickly," he said. "You could see it today. So the challenge tomorrow is to keep going and not try to defend anything. So we'll see how it will react tomorrow, how the body feels and how I handle the situation."

Kaymer had his way with a softer, gentler Pinehurst No. 2 by becoming the first player to open with 65s to set the 36-hole record at 10-under 130. Some players wondered what tournament he was playing.

There was no doubt what it was on Saturday.

"They've set it up so that no one can go after," Retief Goosen said after a 71. "Some of the pins look like they're about to fall off the greens."

Toru Taniguchi shot an 88. Brendon Todd, playing in the final group with Kaymer, had a 79.

Phil Mickelson had 74 and was 13 shots out of the lead. He'll have to wait until next year to pursue the only major keeping him from the career Grand Slam.



ERIC GAV/AP

Martin Kaymer on the fourth hole Saturday during the third round of the U.S. Open in Pinehurst, N.C. Kaymer shot a 2-over 72.

Adam Scott, the world No. 1, made bogey on all but one of the par 3s and was 11 shots behind.

Kaymer nearly joined the parade of players going the wrong direction.

He ended an amazing streak of 29 holes without a bogey by failing to get up-and-down from short of the second green. Trouble really was brewing on the fourth hole, when he pulled his tee shot into the trees and couldn't play his next shot.

After being denied relief, he took a one-shot penalty drop and punched out to the fairway. From 165 yards, he hit his fourth shot to 15 feet right of the flag and lightly

pumped his fist — big emotion for Kaymer — when it dropped for bogey.

The other mistakes were sloppy. Kaymer hit a birdie putt off the green on the par-3 sixth and had to scramble for bogey. On the back nine, he twice took three putts for bogey, once from off the green.

But he closed with his best shot of a long day, and still had control of this U.S. Open.

Kaymer is hopeful of winning his second major before turning 30. In the last 20 years, only Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy and Ernie Els have done that.

Scoreboard

Saturday
At Pinehurst Resort and Country Club,
No. 2 Course
Purse: TBA (\$8 million in 2013)
Yards: 7,545
Third Round
(64-man event)

Martin Kaymer	-26	72-72-202	-8
Rickie Fowler	-26	70-70-207	-3
Erik Compton	-26	72-67-207	-3
Henrik Stenson	-26	69-69-208	-2
Dustin Johnson	-26	70-70-208	-2
Brandt Snedeker	-26	69-68-209	-1
Matt Kuchar	-26	70-71-210	E
Brooks Koepka	-26	69-72-210	E
Kevin Na	-26	69-73-210	E
Justin Rose	-26	72-69-211	+1

Jordan Spieth	-26	70-70-211	+1
Chris Kirk	-26	71-68-211	+1
Brendon De Jonge	-26	68-70-211	+1
Victor Dubuisson	-26	70-72-212	+2
Francisco Molinari	-26	69-71-212	+2
Garth Mulroy	-26	71-72-213	+3
Jimmy Kneadler	-26	70-72-213	+3
Jason Day	-26	73-68-213	+3
Marcel Siem	-26	70-72-213	+3
J.B. Holmes	-26	70-71-213	+3
Adam Scott	-26	73-67-213	+3
Lucy Liang	-26	70-72-214	+4
Shiv Kapur	-26	73-70-214	+4
Dustin Johnson	-26	70-72-214	+4
Aaron Baddeley	-26	70-71-214	+4
Steve Stricker	-26	70-73-214	+4
Hideki Matsuyama	-26	70-74-214	+4
Lincoln Park	-26	70-74-214	+4
Keegan Bradley	-26	69-76-214	+4

Ryan Moore	-26	76-68-215	+5
Retief Goosen	-26	72-71-215	+5
Bill Haas	-26	72-72-215	+5
Phil Mickelson	-26	70-72-215	+5
Brendon Todd	-26	69-67-215	+5
Sergio Garcia	-26	73-71-216	+6
Cody Gribble	-26	70-72-216	+6
Ernie Els	-26	74-70-216	+6
Billy Horschel	-26	75-68-216	+6
Webb Simpson	-26	71-72-216	+6
Patrick Reed	-26	71-72-216	+6
Jim Furyk	-26	73-70-216	+6
Nicholas Lindheim	-26	72-73-217	+7
Zach Johnson	-26	71-74-217	+7
Kenny Perry	-26	74-69-217	+7
Graeme McDowell	-26	68-74-217	+7
Zac Blair	-26	71-74-218	+8
Stewart Cink	-26	72-72-218	+8
Scott Langley	-26	72-71-218	+8

Gary Woodland	-26	72-71-218	+8
Seung-yul Noh	-26	70-72-218	+8
Paul Casey	-26	70-74-219	+9
Bo Van Pelt	-26	72-72-219	+9
Harris English	-26	69-75-219	+9
Danny Willett	-26	70-71-219	+9
Billy Hurley III	-26	71-74-220	+10
Justin Leonard	-26	75-70-220	+10
Clayton Rask	-26	73-71-221	+11
Alex Colka	-26	73-71-221	+11
Daniel Berger	-26	72-71-221	+11
Frank Quinn	-26	68-74-221	+11
a-Matthew Fitzpatrick	-26	71-73-222	+12
Louis Oosthuizen	-26	71-73-222	+12
Kevin Stadler	-26	77-68-223	+13
Boo Weekley	-26	71-73-224	+14
Kevin Tway	-26	72-72-225	+15
Russell Henley	-26	70-74-226	+16
Toru Taniguchi	-26	72-73-223	+23

SPORTS

Complete World Cup coverage:

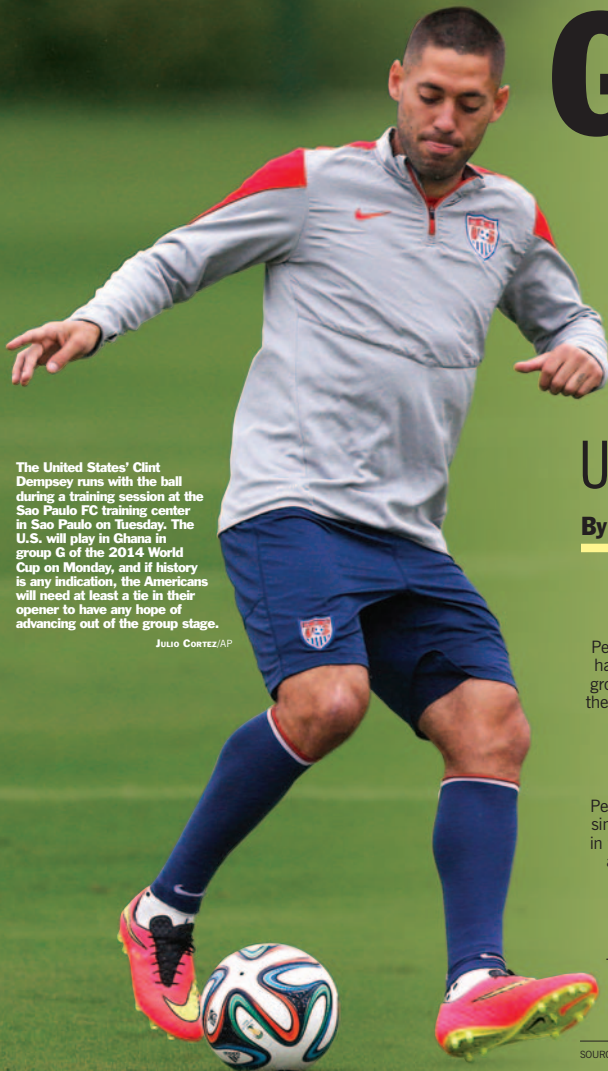
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- Balotelli, Italy top England, Page 26
- Drogba inspires Ivory Coast, Page 25



Group G
Germany vs Portugal
AFN-Sports
5:30 p.m. Monday CET
12:30 a.m. Tuesday JKT



Group G
Ghana vs USA
AFN-Sports
11:30 p.m. Monday CET
6:30 a.m. Tuesday JKT



The United States' Clint Dempsey runs with the ball during a training session at the Sao Paulo FC training center in Sao Paulo on Tuesday. The U.S. will play in Ghana in group G of the 2014 World Cup on Monday, and if history is any indication, the Americans will need at least a tie in their opener to have any hope of advancing out of the group stage.

JULIO CORTEZ/AP

Get the point?

Loss to Ghana could be crushing blow to US World Cup dreams

By the numbers

85

Percentage of teams that have advanced from the group stage after winning their openers, since 1998.

58

Percentage that advance, since 1998, after a draw in their opener. 9 percent advance after a loss.

0

Times the United States has advanced from group after failing to get a point in opener.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

THAT'S NATAL, Brazil the skies may clear by Monday night, when the United States plays Ghana in the World Cup opener.

No matter the weather, the formula for advancing to the second round is evident: get at least a point from the first game.

"It's pretty much like a knockout game," U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann told fans at a send-off pep rally last month in New York's Times Square.

The Americans have never advanced from the group stage after failing to get at least a point in their opener. They reached the knockout phase after winning their first games in 1930 and 2002, and following draws in 1994 and 2010.

"Statistically, the chances of advancing go way up now if you're able to get a point or three from the first game," midfielder Michael Bradley said, "and so we've certainly made no secret of the fact that all the focus at this point is about Ghana, and making sure that we do everything we can, so that on June 16, we step on the field and are ready to leave it all out there, knowing that a good result puts us in a really good spot."

SEE POINT ON PAGE 27

Rockies rally in ninth to knock off slumping Giants | **MLB, Page 29**

Kaymer protects lead on tough day at Pinehurst | **US Open, Page 31**

